

July 25 1996

Thursday July 25 1996

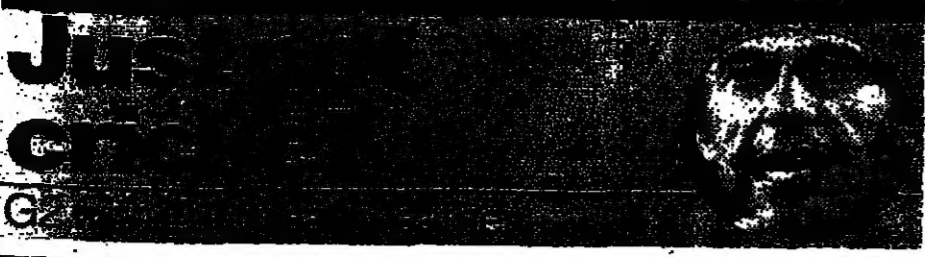
Alan Clark D 8.50	Kevin Maguire M 3.25	Queen CR 1.00
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Amanda 1.50	Johnnie 1.00	Robbie 1.70
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William 1.50	Johnnie 1.00	Robbie 1.70
Yvonne 1.50	Johnnie 1.00	Robbie 1.70
Zoe 1.50	Johnnie 1.00	Robbie 1.70

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 40,514

Why England and Pakistan don't get on



Derek Malcolm on the sound and fury of Twister



OnLine

Blair fends off rebels

Michael White Political Editor

THE Labour leadership last night survived the latest test of Tony Blair's authority when Labour MPs buckled under and voted to keep Harriet Harman in the shadow cabinet team he wants to fight the coming election.

Not only did the embattled shadow health secretary survive the private fury of many backbenchers over her decision to send her younger son to a selective grammar school, but Jack Cunningham, who had his place last year, was also re-elected to the vacant seat. Mr Blair's decision to stand down...

The results

1 (1)	Margaret Beckett	261 (167)
2 (10)	Ann Taylor	250 (158)
3 (18)	Clare Short	218 (131)
4 (12)	Gavin Strang	217 (131)
5 (2)	Robin Cook	214 (181)
6 (6)	Donald Dewar	212 (150)
7 (9)	Frank Dobson	211 (142)
8 (9)	Mo Mowlam	208 (152)
9 (9)	David Clark	205 (141)
10 (16)	Michael Meacher	202 (124)
11 (4)	Ron Davies	201 (157)
12 (20)	Jack Cunningham	190 (103)
13 (13)	Jack Straw	188 (138)
14 (3)	Gordon Brown	188 (189)
15 (7)	Chris Smith	188 (144)
16 (17)	George Robertson	182 (118)
17 (11)	Dave Brunt	175 (132)
18 (16)	Tom Clarke	175 (107)

trigger a highly personalised "New Labour, New Hypocrisy" campaign prepared by Conservative Central Office to exploit the education controversy, which touches Mr Blair as well, and who votes back. If she had lost, the Tories would have played the Labour "extremist" card.

Mr Blair, who had earlier denounced "discipline and attacks upon each other" — a coded rebuff to leftwing critics, immediately announced that a review of the MPs' code of conduct to improve what he called "communication, consultation and discipline".

The overwhelmingly Tuisi army denied yesterday that there had been a coup. But its ally, the mainly Tutsi Uprona party — the second largest member in the coalition government and the real power in Burundi — threatened to bring the administration down. Were Uprona to do so, the power vacuum would be an invitation for the military to step in.

TAXI driver Steve Baird is taking a rest after a nine-day, 3,128-mile odyssey from California to Canada and back that cost his passenger \$4,100 (\$2,785) plus \$615 in tips. It began when Pat Fry, a retired hotel worker aged 61, decided she needed to get out of her flat in Pasadena, Los Angeles, where she had been mourning a friend's death. In the street she called Mr Baird, aged 40, and told him she felt like Santa Barbara.

That was a two-hour drive north. But then she decided, "let's keep going". She moved from the back seat of Mr Baird's yellow cab to the front, where the motor was ticking busily. When he told her she could have a discount, she replied: "Good. Let's go to San Francisco."

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The 200 victims of the massacre by suspected Hutu rebels at a refugee camp in Burundi...

President flees to US embassy

Chris McGreal in Kigali

BURUNDI'S beleaguered Hutu president, Sylvestre Ndirakobuca, has sought refuge at the American ambassador's residence in the capital, Bujumbura, and appears ready to relinquish office amid fears that he could become the third successive leader of his country to be assassinated.

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Mr Ndirakobuca fled to the US embassy after angry Tutsis pelted him with stones and cow-dung before a mass funeral for more than 300 people thought to have been massacred by Hutu rebels. The army stood passively during the attack on the president, leaving his bodyguards to protect him as he fled to his helicopter.

Hutu rebel attacks and the military's reprisals have claimed an estimated 150,000 lives in less than three years, almost all of them unarmed civilians murdered because of their ethnicity. But tensions have risen sharply as Tutsi extremists, including members of the army, have vigorously opposed a plan for a regional military force to intervene and protect civilians.

An army spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Longin Munani, denied a coup was in the making. "Our president and commander-in-chief is President Ndirakobuca. There's nothing that has changed. If he has gone to the US embassy, we don't know why he went there. It astonishes us," he said.

At the United Nations Security Council, members warned against any coup attempt. But Uprona's leader, Charles Nkusi, yesterday accused the president of treason and called an urgent meeting of his party's coalition allies to decide the fate of the government.

Last month Mr Mukasi made what amounted to a call for a coup after the president and the prime minister, Antoine Ndaywayo, who is a member of Uprona but is increasingly at odds with some within the party, agreed to the military intervention plan by Burundi's neighbour.

Some members of the president's party, Frodeba, went into hiding yesterday as extremist Tutsi militias paraded through the streets of Bujumbura, marching in military formation and staging extremist songs.

Mr Ndirakobuca was reported two years ago after the assassination of his predecessor, Cyprien Ntaryamira, who was on board the Rwandan president's aircraft when it was shot down by Hutu extremists who launched

Rwanda's anti-Tutsi genocide. Mr Ntaryamira had come to power after the assassination in 1998 of Burundi's first freely elected Hutu president, Melchior Ndadaye. Mr Ndadaye was murdered by Tutsi junior soldiers. His death sparked a wave of anti-Tutsi killings by reconstituted Hutus and vicious retaliation by the army, setting off the cycle of violence that continues today.

Rifkind forces BBC retreat

Andrew Gull Media Correspondent

THE BBC made its first concession yesterday over planned changes to the World Service following the intervention of Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary.

As opposition to director general John Birt's managerial shake-up intensified, Mr Rifkind ordered that a working group be set up to assess the impact on the quality of the service.

He voiced the Government's concerns during a 45-minute meeting with Sir Christopher Eland, the BBC's chairman, described as "constructive" and "really businesslike" by the two sides.

In an apparent snub to the BBC for its Panorama interview with the Princess of Wales, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday that the Queen's Christmas broadcast will be produced by the ITV every two years, ending a 39-year tradition.

Details, page 3

Sir Christopher agreed to the working group, which is to be headed by Sam Younger, managing director of the World Service, and Christopher Battiscombe, a Foreign Office civil servant.

The Foreign Office said it did not expect major irreversible steps to be taken by the BBC in advance of a further meeting between Mr Rifkind and Sir Christopher set for October. But the BBC said it would continue to implement the changes, in which the World Service's news operation is to be merged into the domestic newswatching division.

April 1997 is the target date turn to page 2, column 1

Governors in spotlight, page 4; Leader comment, page 5

Taxi! That'll be just £2,700, plus tip

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

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The journey

luggage. The pair bought toothbrushes and fresh clothing and selected budget motels — "in separate rooms" the decorous Ms Fry emphasised. The journey continued northwards.

Mr Baird called taxi headquarters and told them not to expect him back soon. Ms Fry cancelled a dental appointment. Folks waved as they entered north California's redwood and pine forests, and they laughed at the "City of Los Angeles Taxi" black lettering on the door. Crazy movie people, they decided.

Ms Fry, a fan of the Angela Lansbury television series *Murder, She Wrote*, stopped in the seaside town of Mendocino, background for the show's fictional Cabot Cove location.

On route to Seattle, police checked to see if the cab was stolen. At the Canadian border Americans need only an ID, which Ms Fry did not have. But officials accepted Mr Baird's driv-

ing licence and her own trust.

In Vancouver they were faced with free meals and drinks and the story of the "little old lady from Pasadena" made the local paper in Victoria. They returned via Sacramento, California's capital, and arrived in Pasadena this week — having run out of petrol on the last day because the gauge had broken — the only mishap.

Ms Fry laughed as she recalled: "It was such fun, I'll never be depressed again." Now she wants to go to Banff national park — in Alberta. Mr Baird says he is ready any time, Hollywood is almost certainly watching...

© The longest taxi ride ever, according to the Guinness Book of Records, was undertaken by Mike Lehtonen and Juhani Saranen, who travelled 14,415 miles from Norka in Finland to Spain and back. The journey took two weeks in May 1981 and cost some £9,000.

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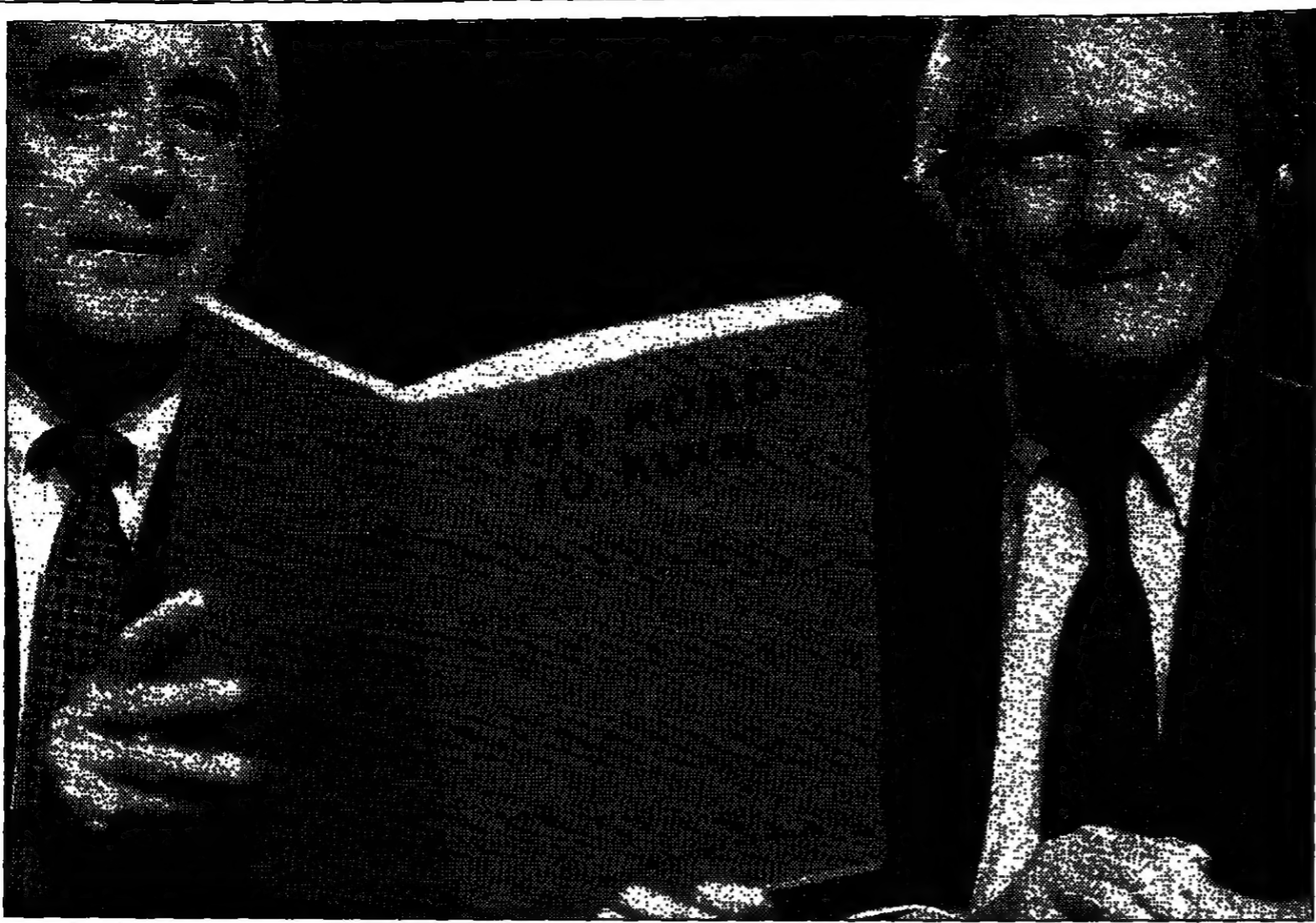
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2 NEWS

Sketch



Simon Hoggart reveals his roll of dishonour as MPs begin their long summer holiday



The Tories launched their spoof Labour manifesto at a wine-making press conference... outright winner in the PR cock-up category



Winner: Baroness Thatcher



Winner: Nicholas Winterton



Winner: Roger Freeman



Winner: John Major



Winner: Alastair Campbell



Winner: Michael Fabricant

Winning ways in cowardice and cock-ups

Parliament rose last night until October. Naturally, there will be the usual bleats about MPs' long holidays. But if you had to sit there every day, you might well think that the more they are on vacation, the luckier we will be.

There was John Major's risible claim that "no-one can buy access to ministers." But the statute has to go to Margaret Thatcher, who dared to turn up at Westminster Hall for the apotheosis of Nelson Mandela, the man she once called a terrorist.

Book which was generally panned: his agent asked the Guardian half a million for the serial rights. (The alternative suggestion was 37p, and I am pleased to report that the final figure was closer to the latter than the former.)

Police to stop and search on suspicion - rescuing the hated sun laws. The new law, which Labour rushed to support, was hurried through the Commons just in time for the 90th anniversary of the Easter Rising, an event which had been predictable since 1916.

Spin doctor of the Year: Labour's Alastair Campbell, for briefing a reporter on Tony Blair's decision to come out against the London tube strike, "and if you call it a U-turn, I'll take your head off."

Means new communities so that everyone is in bed by 10pm, and not out shopping as they are under the Tories.

For the first time ever, though, his low-towing was answered, by Labour's Tony Banks. "No-one has greased more assiduously than you, as you carry any political lunchbox... you will kiss the bottom of any person's authority... you are not an incipient minister, but a wretched youth congratulating himself on getting the last cabin boy's job on the Titanic. All your bill does is provide more cheap copy for Simon Hoggart."

And then, not one single person could be found to vote for his bill. Poor Michael. But that is the purest greasing; greasing without even the hope of reward.

First night

Who's that tap tap, tapping on heaven's door?

Keith Watson

YOU'VE got to have a monster ego to pull on a monster show called Lord Of The Dance and then give yourself the starring role. But one thing Michael Flatley is not short of is self-confidence.

amount of filler. Lord Of The Dance plays to its strengths, working its outstanding ensemble of young dancers to their limits in a succession of demanding and lightning-quick routines.

Minutes reveal tycoon's interest in DSS

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent

THE Guardian's disclosure of a Tory property tycoon's secret talks to buy the nation's social security offices last night reignited the row over the Premier Club, the organisation where business people pay £100,000 to dine with John Major.

paper yesterday as the tycoon denounced the disclosure as "absolute lies" on BBC radio. Mr Beckwith, who is also Premier Club chairman, restarted the row over its privileged access to John Major by claiming the club did enable members to meet him.

minutes and Touche management consultants for the sale, show Mr Beckwith had already been approached by another company to form a consortium to buy the benefit offices and could have completed the deal within 16 months.

was actually quite unlikely that we would get involved. There is no way we could do MoD and DSS.

insurance company. The minutes say Beckwith Property Fund Management were partners with US insurance company AIG.

later issued a statement denying any connection between himself as chairman of the Premier Club and the invitation for him to tender for the MoD contract.

The full text of the transcript

THE following is the transcript of the minutes of a meeting on February 21 this year between Beckwith Property Fund Management and Deloitte and Touche, management advisers to Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, on the sale of the benefit offices estate. The questions are by Deloitte and Touche and the replies by Beckwith directors.

than phasing it over time or splitting it into packages. A partnership arrangement would probably include an FM (facilities management) company, is favoured.

What would be the impact on the attractiveness of the transaction. The availability and comprehensiveness of accurate information on the estate and the service contracts will be key to the success of the deal.

What are your views on the options and specifically the major categories of option. The option of doing the deal in a single one-off transaction is more attractive

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Rifkind forces BBC to allow overview of World Service's newsgathering changes

continued from page 1 for the restructuring to be in place. John Tusa, a former managing director of the World Service and opponent of the changes, said: "Given the way the BBC has behaved, is this small step the minimum they

would concede to get their plan through?" The BBC's governors meet today and are expected to discuss an appeal, published in yesterday's Guardian, from 140 leading public figures to delay implementation.

penditure, and reprimand BBC executives for introducing changes without consulting the Foreign Office.

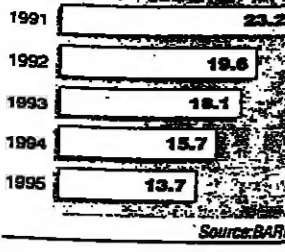
Mr Rifkind voiced surprise yesterday that the Foreign Office had not been informed in advance of the changes. He sought assurances the quality

and international outlook of the service would not be jeopardised. The Foreign Office is seeking guarantees that grants-aid would be properly separated from the BBC's licence fee income and there would be no cross-subsidy.

Some nature to be but t... ONLINE C

The Queen

TV viewing figures for the Queen's Christmas broadcast, millions.



Snub to BBC as traditional Christmas broadcast to be produced every two years by ITV



The BBC Panorama interview with the Princess of Wales, which annoyed and alienated Buckingham Palace

Queen changes channels

Andrew Cuff
Media Correspondent

BUCKINGHAM Palace yesterday delivered an apparent snub to the BBC for its Panorama interview with the Princess of Wales by ending its exclusive responsibility for making the Queen's Christmas broadcast.

The move to share production of the broadcast between the BBC and ITV ended a 29-year tradition and was being interpreted by broadcasters as retaliation for Panorama's portrayal of a royal family beset by in-fighting.

Under the new arrangement, announced by the Queen's press secretary Charles Anson, ITV will produce the broadcast, transmitted throughout the Commonwealth on Christmas Day, in 1997 and 1999. Production reverts to the BBC in 1998 and 2000. The alternating two-year cycle will be reviewed periodically, he added. Both channels will screen the broadcast each year as usual.

The palace insisted there was no rift with the BBC and denied it had been taken in the wake of last November's interview by Martin Bashir.

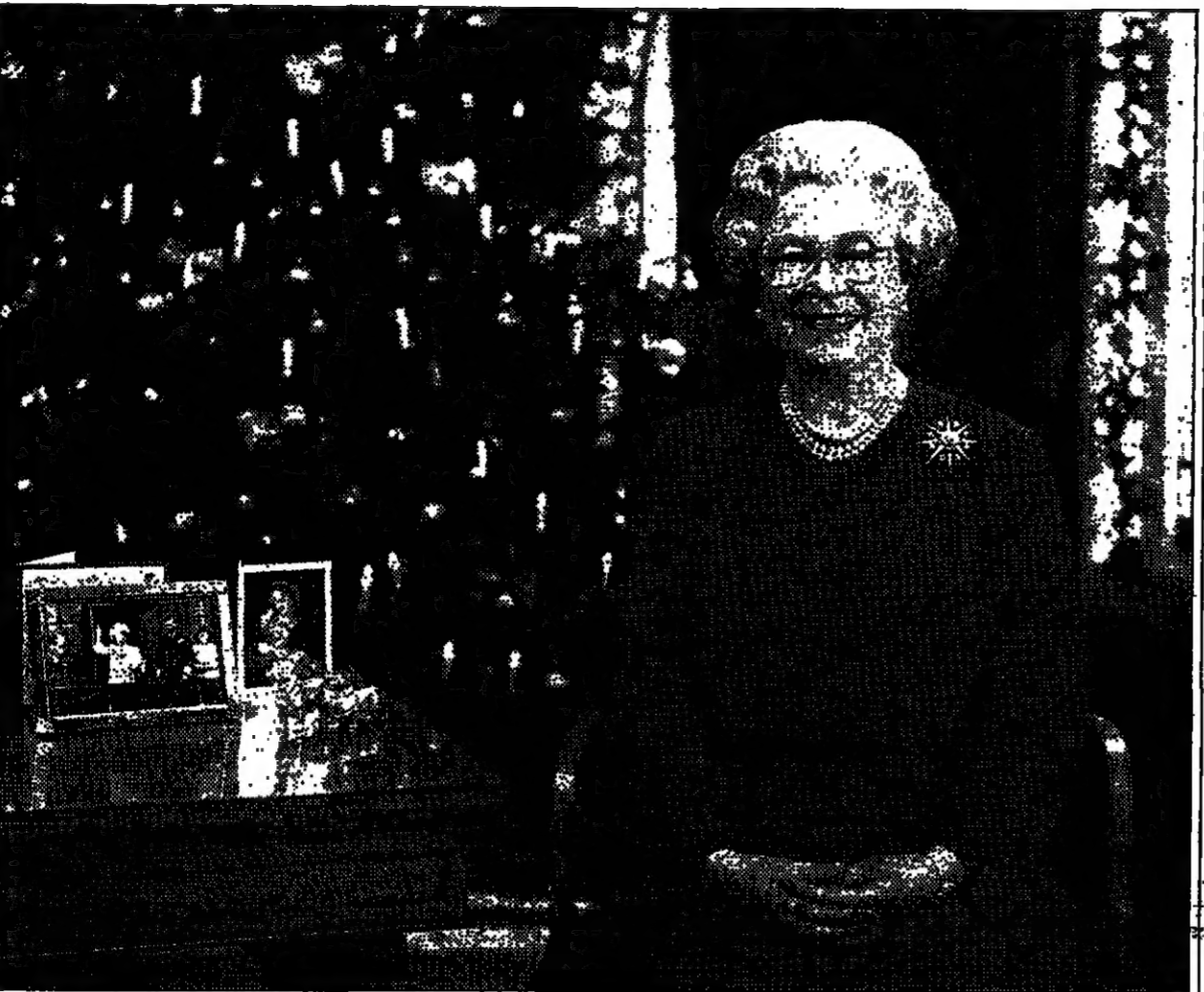
A spokesman said: "We were considering a change to the current arrangements in early 1995, before the Panorama programme was broadcast."

However, ITV was approached by the palace, which hinted darkly at the time of the interview that it might take action against the BBC. It said in November: "No institution can take for granted its relationship with the media, just as the media — in this case the BBC — cannot take for granted its relationship with us."

The BBC said it did not believe Panorama was the reason for the decision. A spokeswoman added: "In the contemporary broadcasting environment it makes sense for the leading public service broadcasters to share the responsibilities and costs of broadcasts of this kind."

The cost of producing and distributing the broadcast around the world is about £100,000 a year.

Audiences for the broadcast have fallen steadily. The 1995 address was watched by 13.7



The Queen's Christmas message to Britain and the Commonwealth has been produced exclusively by the BBC for 39 years

million viewers, most of them tuned to the BBC, a drop of 10 million in five years.

The 1996 broadcast will be made by the BBC's head of events programmes, Philip Gilbert, for the sixth year running. Next year, ITV will produce the broadcast, with radio distribution to 190 stations around the world being handled by its partners Independent Radio News.

Marcus Plantin, ITV's network director, said: "I am delighted that ITV has been given the opportunity to participate in the annual broadcast... It is a welcome acknowledgment of ITV's excellent and long-standing track record of quality news and factual programming."

The Queen's TV times

- ITV ran into controversy in 1994 when it contemplated moving the broadcast from its traditional 3pm slot.
- The Sun published extracts from the 1992 broadcast in advance; it was forced to apologise to the Queen and pay £200,000 in damages to charity.
- The BBC was also forced to apologise in 1967 when the contents leaked to six tabloid newspapers. Royal correspondent Michael Cole had discussed the broadcast with reporters at a private lunch.
- The first broadcast was on radio in 1932, made by George V, from Sandringham. The

- first television broadcast was in 1957.
- It has spawned the tradition of an alternative Christmas Day broadcast on Channel 4. Presenters have included Jesse Jackson, Quentin Crisp and Brigitte Bardot.
- The Queen headed into cyberspace for the first time in 1994 as the broadcast was transmitted on the Internet.
- Informality was introduced to the broadcast in 1986 by producer Sir David Attenborough when the Queen dispensed with her desk and was filmed at a children's Christmas party.

Business club with 'code of silence' loses appeal

Pyramid scheme illegal, judges rule

Sarah Bosley

A MYSTERIOUS and secretive get-rich-quick scheme that ensnared up to 10,000 people across the UK at evangelical-style meetings was ruled illegal by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The German-based Titan Business Club, in which members who pay £2,500 to join earn money by recruiting more members on a pyramid-selling basis, has drawn in showbusiness personalities, senior professionals and even a member of the House of Lords. Few have spoken out because they are required to sign an intimidating document, which has no real legal status, promising silence on penalty of 10,000 Deutschmarks (about £4,500).

"Yesterday the Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, said that all such operations break the law. They involve those who set up, promote, purvey and administer the scheme in criminal offences," he said. "This I hope will deter those who may be tempted to create clones of Titan."

Titan, managed by the Hamburg company SHV Senator, was appealing against an order made by Vice-Chancellor Sir Richard Scott in June that no further "revivalist-style" recruitment meetings with music and chanting should be held to promote the club, pending an application by the DTI for it to be wound up and finally put out of business. Sir Richard called the scheme "an illegal lottery".

Jim Potts, chief trading standards officer in Lancashire, where the scheme seems to have had its UK launch in January, had over 200 inquiries and complaints about Titan. "We warned consistently that this is no more than a money circulation scheme. It is based entirely on being able to recruit other people. For some people to gain, other people must lose."

Potential members are told that they will soon recoup their joining fee, which recently went up from £2,500 to £3,000. They become a junior partner, and receive £450 out of the joining fee paid by members they recruit. When those members introduce new people, the junior partner becomes a senior partner and receives £770 out of the joining fee. The rest of the money goes to the German-based consul-

tant at the top of the pyramid. The catch is that there is always only a limited pool of potential recruits in any area. It is estimated that 7,000 out of 10,000 members of Titan will have lost money.

Schools, theatres and other large public buildings are used for recruitment meetings. Security guards lock the doors and loud inspiring music, typically the Chariots of Fire theme, blares out while lights flash and an evangelical-style salesman comes on to the stage for several hours of hard sell. People tell how their lives have been changed.

"There is almost a build-up of hysteria where people are signed up and sent out with a mission to recruit as many people as they can and make everybody rich," said Mr Potts.

One of the converts is Dec Cuskey, a member of the Bachelors pop group that won fame in the 1960s. He was recruited by a showbusiness agent in Brighton and has recruited two people himself — one of them his son, Oliver.

He is furious that the Department of Trade and Industry took legal action to get Titan closed down. "I stood to make an awful lot of money. I was looking forward to a very long life with Titan. I got my son involved and now I'm pissed off completely. My son had just finished university and was excited, and now the DTI has slapped his hand."

The recruitment meeting was, he said, "absolutely wonderful — there was so much excitement it was very professionally done — probably the best business presentation I have ever seen. You can call it razzamatazz, but you can't influence people by loud music alone. It was a chance for ordinary people to make an extraordinary amount of money."

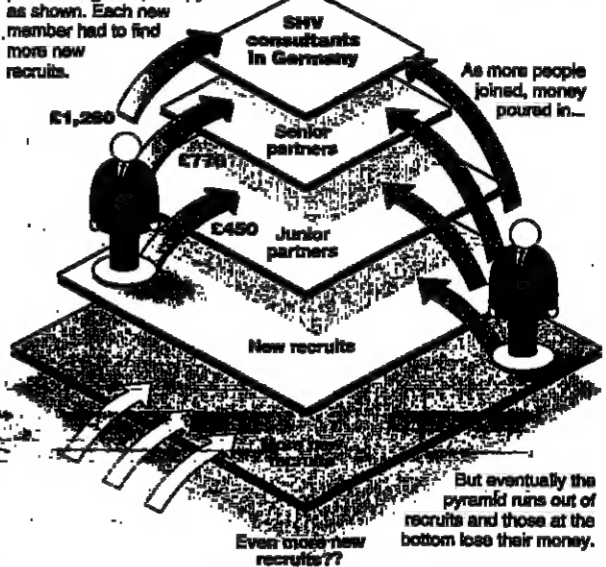
He has showbusiness friends who have also joined. Like Chris Ellison from The Bill, the comic Stan Boardman — who tells jokes against the Germans — and snooker player Tony Knowles. "We play an awful lot of charity golf days, so we had long and deep discussions about the company and we were totally happy."

Newbury's Liberal Democrat MP, David Rendel, who at Easter told the House of Commons that Titan was "an iniquitous pyramid-selling scam", knows of people who are much less happy. "One of my constituents sent me an anonymous letter about the business and a copy of the form in which you have to promise not to tell anybody about it."

Jim Potts forecast that the winding up of Titan could choke the civil courts. He is advising members that they may be entitled to sue those — often friends and relatives — who have introduced them to Titan, using the Misrepresentation Act of 1987.

The pyramid scam

Each new recruit paid £2,500 to join (now £3,000). The money was paid to partners higher up the pyramid as shown. Each new member had to find more new recruits.



But eventually the pyramid runs out of recruits and those at the bottom lose their money. Even those new recruits??

Food poisoning panic grips Japan

PM warns Japan to expect even worse as seven die, 8,500 fall ill

Mary Jordan in Sakai

SWIMMING pools are boarded up, playgrounds are empty. Anxious parents keep children at home and away from others. Nervous restaurant owners boil everything, even melons. A small plane flies low, warning citizens to wash.

Japan is in the midst of its worst outbreak of food poisoning in recent years, with seven dead and more than 8,500 ill. It has spread to almost every island, except the northern island of Hokkaido.

The prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, yesterday announced a crash programme to inspect food products to combat the spread of the "massive" epidemic, and warned that the outbreak was not expected to peak until August. He urged the public

to get medical treatment at the first signs of any unusual symptoms.

More than 6,100 of the ill live in Sakai, an industrial city across Osaka Bay from Kobe. Most are children, including 600 who remain hospitalised. Two young girls — one with a cerebral haemorrhage and another with a damaged heart — are struggling to live.

Doctors believe virtually all those poisoned were infected by a strain of Escherichia coli bacteria called O-157, and many appear to have contracted it from school lunches.

Atsuka Tsuge, aged seven, wearing a glittery headband and clutching a favourite book about a pig that went shopping, said she never liked her school lunches, especially because teachers forced students to eat every bite. She has spent five days with severe pain and fever in a

hospital overflowing with sick children.

"The anger and anxiety over what has happened is in every corner of this city," said her mother, Michiyo Tsuge. "We don't know where this came from and we don't know how to stop it."

Health officials have ordered schools in the hardest hit areas to test their water supply for O-157. They have also ordered food preparers to preserve left-overs for two weeks to help epidemiologists track the source of bacteria. A task force in Sakai's city hall is co-ordinating nationwide efforts. It has established an emergency hotline, and 500,000 leaflets are being distributed. In a country where meat is often eaten raw, people are being warned to cook everything.

The first cases of poisoning showed up in May in Okayama prefecture, in south-western Japan, causing the death of two children. On July 11, Atsuka and other children were taken to hospital, curled up in pain, with fever, vomiting and, in the

worst cases, kidney failure.

Raw eel in sushi was first suspected, and still has not been ruled out, because many of the ill children ate it at school. But doctors believe a boy near Tokyo was poisoned by eating slices of raw beef liver, a delicacy. Authorities believe there may be several causes of the poisonings.

There are hundreds of strains of E. coli, most of which live in the intestines of animals and usually pose no threat to humans. E. coli bacteria are commonly found in the human intestinal tract. But the strain known as O-157 can damage the lining of the intestine, cause bloody diarrhoea, kidney damage and, in the severest cases, death.

In Japan, abattoirs are inspected by local government employees who visually check the meat. No government inspections are required in processing plants where meat is cut and packaged. Atsuka Oda, an official in the health ministry, said the government was now considering more stringent regulations. — Washington Post.

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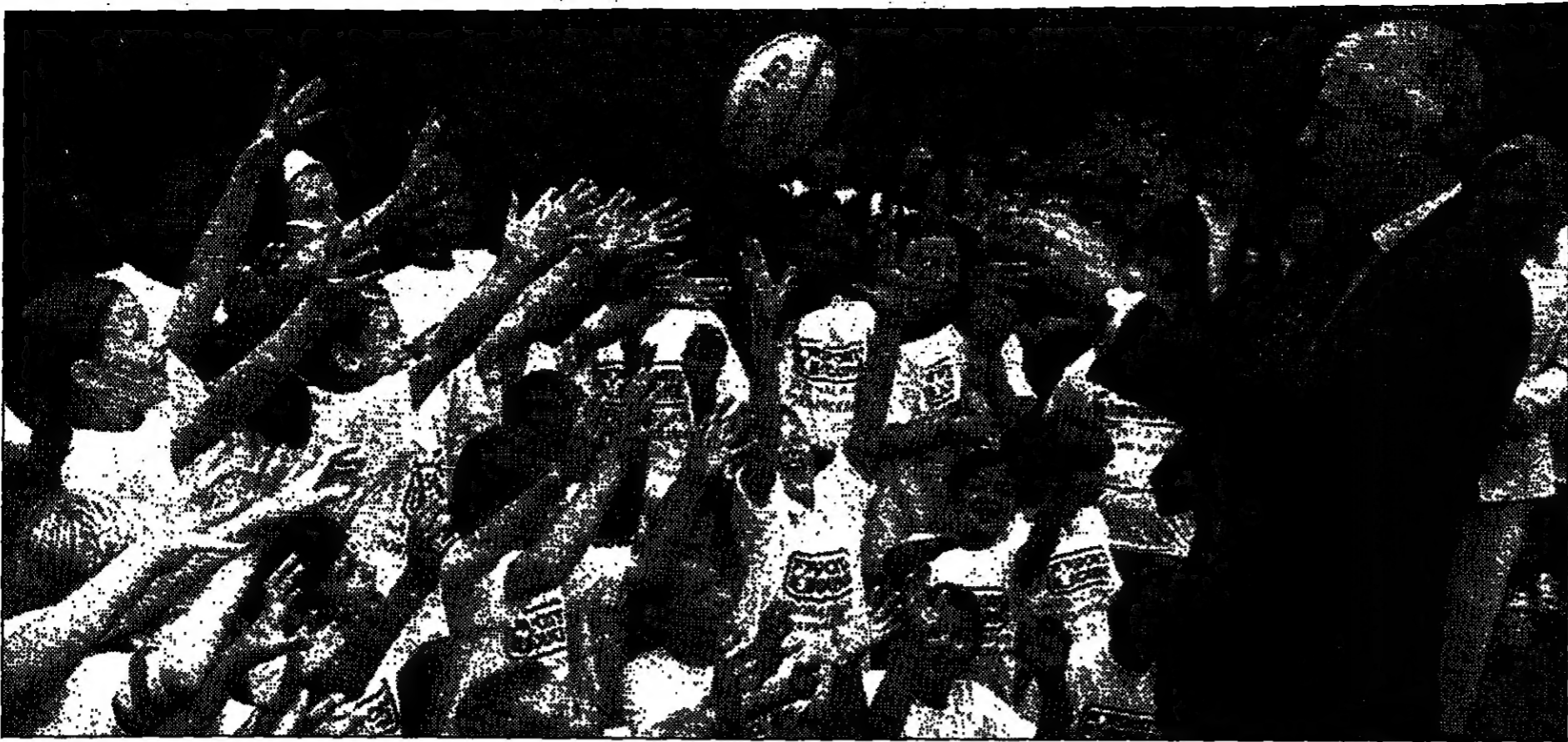
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Some doubt whether, in the chaotic world of nature, real predictions can be made early enough to head off alien invasions. The best approach may be to identify not the species that could invade, but the ecosystems vulnerable to invasion.

OnLine G2 page 10

Labour claims credit for proposed academy of excellence financed by lottery money



Throwing a lifeline to sport... John Major shows off his rugby skills to youngsters during yesterday's gathering of sporting personalities in the garden of 10 Downing Street

Major lobs £300m into reviving sport

John Carvel Education Editor
JOHN Major yesterday held out the prospect of a glittering future for British sport with the help of a £300 million annual subvention from the National Lottery. But he failed to explain how thousands of schools would recover the playing fields they have been forced to sell or rediscover coaching enthusiasm among disillusioned teachers.

ence to develop a new generation of champions, using £100 million of lottery money. "I envisage a single central academy in up to 100 acres of land," he said. "The purpose is to provide an academy that will provide the best training, the best coaching, the best sports medicine, the best sports science for elite sports men and women." It would also offer facilities for disabled competitors.

range of technology and language colleges. There would be a "ladder of sporting opportunity" stretching down to primary school level where a new curriculum has been put in place to develop the skills needed for competitive games. The Prime Minister announced a Sportsmark award to identify schools which have done most to improve their sporting achievement. It will be open to all schools providing the regulation (two hours a week of PE. There will also be a Gold Star Award for schools offering at least four hours a week of extra-curricular sport.

At a gathering of sporting personalities in the garden of 10 Downing Street, the Prime Minister was reviewing progress since his policy paper on sport last year. Other initiatives include: A "university challenge" to establish 200 extra sporting scholarships by the time of the Sydney Olympics in four years. There are currently about 800 scholarships worth £5,000 a year. A decision by British Coal to transfer the freehold of 220 recreational sites in the Midlands and north of England to a trust which will keep them for sporting use. The Sports Council will

have to be consulted about sales of playing fields. From September all schools will have to report to parents on their sports provision and achievement in their prospectus and annual report. Labour welcomed the plans for a sporting academy and claimed credit for thinking of the idea first. Jack Cunningham, shadow National Heritage secretary, said it was right to direct lottery money into sport, but more should go to school sports which were neglected for 17 years. "Thousands of playing fields have been sold for development, PE in schools has been undermined and swimming lessons rationed or abolished," he said.

ming lessons rationed or abolished," he said. Sir Rhodes Boyson, a former headmaster and former education minister, said: "British sporting prowess has drastically slumped because of the decline of school sport since the withdrawal of teachers from voluntary activities in 1985 and the introduction of the 1,285 hours-a-year teacher contract. The number of physical education teachers has dropped over recent years by 20 per cent to 22 per cent, and a number of PE colleges have even closed."

Imran drops Botham from top bowlers

Imran Khan, who should know a good cricketer when he sees one, claimed yesterday that when he gave an interview about the world's greatest bowlers tampering with the ball, Ian Botham did not feature in his mind.

He said Botham was the greatest all rounder England had produced. Imran said the current furor over ball tampering started during the 1982 series between England and Pakistan. The tabloid press waged a campaign against the Pakistan team accusing them of ball tampering, using headlines like "Paki cheats."

The mini-anub, delivered at the High Court, came as Imran said Botham peaked as a bowler in 1981. "From then onwards, he began to lose that outswing and gradually his performances started going down, but as a batsman he became better."

Rumours were spread that fast bowlers Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis were ball tampering to achieve reverse swing, a technique perfected in Pakistan but largely unknown in England at the time. Imran, who had retired from cricket by then, said he felt hurt at the racist comments and wanted to defend his former team mates and the Pakistani community who were being treated like "sacrificial lambs."

Imran said he confessed in an unauthorised biography to using a bottle top to tamper with the ball in 1981 because he wanted to clarify the issue over tampering and declare it was widespread in cricket. Earlier, England captain Mike Atherton said the laws of cricket needed to be changed to allow certain forms of ball tampering which are already tacitly accepted. On the India Today magazine, Imran said his views did not reflect what he said. He added: "I believe in an egalitarian society. We are Pathans, a tribal group, we have always been egalitarian."

The case continues. Imran, who denies libel claims he never called Botham a cheat and he was misquoted in the magazine interview, was asked by George Carman, QC, representing Imran, to pick his top English bowlers he chose John Snow for pace, Derek Underwood for spin and Geoff Arnold for

Witness: England captain Mike Atherton yesterday

Former Pakistan captain Imran Khan yesterday

Plan put forward to burn cattle as fuel in power stations

Rebecca Smithers and Alex Bellis
THE Government yesterday signalled the go-ahead for a new scheme to deal with the cattle carcasses piling up as a result of the BSE crisis, which would enable them to be burned as fuel in power stations. Although the plan must be approved by Parliament when it returns in the autumn, the Department of

Trade and Industry yesterday slipped out the new regulations to allow power stations to use rendered meat and bones as fuel. The scheme is likely to prove controversial, but ministers consider it an acceptable alternative to burying carcasses, and one way of tackling the logistical problems of mass incineration. A spokesman for the Birmingham Hindu Community Centre called on people of all

religions to speak up against the proposals, saying: "Treating animals as a fuel is unthinkable." Roger Lilley, of Friends of the Earth, said he was concerned the emissions from power stations may pose health problems. News of the step came as the Government put forward a package of tougher curbs on sheep slaughtering, after claims that BSE can be transmitted to sheep.

At the same time the agriculture minister, Douglas Hogg, announced a £29 million compensation scheme for beef farmers who may have lost out on cattle slaughtered between March 20 and June 30. Farmers will be eligible for compensation to the value of 90 per cent of a replacement younger animal where they have been forced to lose older cows under the accelerated slaughter programme.

Judge in 'groping' case speaks out

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent
THE judge condemned by women's groups for saying a policeman accused of groping colleagues' breasts should have received a "good kicking off" instead of facing trial took the unusual step of defending himself publicly yesterday. Judge Alastair McCallum issued a statement through the Lord Chancellor's Department saying he was surprised at media reports on the collapse of the case against PC Robert Bridle. The judge made it clear that he directed not guilty verdicts at Bradford crown court on Monday because of a prosecution that offered no evidence after the two

probationers who accused PC Bridle were cross-examined. The prosecutor, having heard evidence from the policemen, felt he could not prove the offence. Anyone who believes no objection will be taken to his actions cannot be convicted of indecent assault, even if the victim does object. Lynne Tolan, a detective chief inspector who investigated the case, described the judge's comments as "biased, crass, prejudicial, outdated and out of order." Judge McCallum said: "I am astonished that a retired policeman, who was on the witness list and who therefore was not in court to hear any evidence, should give a press conference outside the court minutes after the case ended."

BBC governors' accountability comes under public spotlight

Save the World Service
Andrew Culf Media Correspondent
IT IS three years since the BBC's governors were last thrust so uncompromisingly into the public spotlight. Then, they were debating whether the former chairman, Marmaduke Hussey, and the director general, John Birt, should resign after it had been revealed that Mr Birt had been employed by the corporation on a freelance basis so that he could reduce his tax bill. The two men survived the crisis — but the outcome was a redefinition of the role of the governors to produce a more accountable BBC. That accountability is to be put to the test this morning. The governors were given details of Mr Birt's radical overhaul of the corporation at a meeting in May, although some of them did not spot the significance of what was being proposed for the World Service. Richard Eyre, the director of the Royal National Theatre, who joined the board six months ago, has promised to raise the concerns of World Service campaigners at today's meeting. But apart from the chairman, Sir Christopher Bland, none of the governors has spoken out publicly about the row, despite an open appeal published in the Guardian yesterday by 140 leading public figures for a delay in implementing the plan. Yesterday's joint BBC/Foreign Office statement emphasised that the governors would "continue to take a

My World Service
Ben Okri
IT SEEMS astonishing to me that a nation should have a precious asset and could so lightly throw it away. I can not think of any other nation, or indeed any civilisation, that has an organisation like the BBC World Service — one that generates in the world so much goodwill, is so trusted, and has such influence. Most nations somehow think of it as their own; that is how quietly and effectively it has been entering into the consciousness of the peoples of the world. Only tyrants and dictators think of it as an enemy.

It is the worldwide friend of the intelligent and the poor, the oppressed and even the complacent. It more or less spreads news objectively, and disseminates culture generously. It loves diversity, and fosters understanding. You could not set out to create such a marvel of world communication and benign influence if you tried. It sort of developed out of its own principles and necessities. The people who work for the World Service do so for relatively low pay and out of a love for an ideal of humanity. Wise nations would give anything to have such a jewel. How painstakingly are such things built; how easily can they be destroyed. They only happen once in the history of lucky nations. And when they are gone they can never be rebuilt, nor their influence regained.

Who they are
Sir Christopher Bland: Chairman since April 1996. Age 58. Chairman of NFC since 1994. Media experience: became millionaire working with Greg Dyke at LWT; ex-chairman IBA. Lord Coles of Hartcliffe: Vice-chairman since 1993. Age 66. Labour chief whip 1978-79; deputy chairman Docklands Development Corporation since 1988. Media experience: kept out of the TV limelight since 1981. Sir Kenneth Bloomfield: National governor for Northern Ireland since 1991. Age 65. Media experience: none. Gwyn Jones: National governor for Wales since 1992. Age 47. Chairman Welsh development Agency 1988-1993; director of Tesco. Media experience: none. Rev Norman Drummond: National governor for Scotland since 1994. Age 44. Media experience: none. Bill Jordan: Governor since 1994. Age 60. General secretary International Confederation of Free Trade Unions; president Amalgamated Engineering Union 1986-95. Media experience: master of trade union soundbite. Lord Nicholas Gordon-Lennox: Governor since 1990. Age 65. Ex-diplomat; ambassador to Spain 1984-90. Media experience: none. Margaret Spurr: Governor since 1993. Age 62. Chairwoman English National Forum. Media experience: none. Janet Cohen: Governor since 1994. Age 58. Director Charterhouse Bank. Media experience: none. Sir David Scholey: Governor March 1994 to February 1995 and since November 1995. Age 61. Director Bank of England. Media experience: soundbites from boardroom. Richard Eyre: Governor since November 1995. Age 53. Director Royal National Theatre. Media experience: BBC television drama. Janet Cohen: Governor since 1994. Age 58. BAFTA and RTS award-winning film. Adrian White: Governor since 1995. Age 53. Chairman Btwater and Epsom Health Care NHS Trust 1990-94. Media experience: none.

Christopher Bland, BBC chairman, on his way to meet Malcolm Rifkind. close interest in the impact of the proposals on World Service. Governors approached by the Guardian for comment did not return calls. The 12 BBC governors, who include representatives for the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish national regions, have limited experience of broadcasting. The youngest is aged 44, and the average age is 57. Today's meeting is not expected to produce a definitive statement from the governors. Despite their newly-en-

'Red' Jessica Mitford dies aged 78 in California

Christopher Reed and Maggie O'Kane
JESSICA Mitford, the aristocratic English author turned Marxist who became famous for writing an expose of the US gun business, the American Way of Death, has died, aged 78, in Oakland, California, where she lived since 1947. Her sister Diana, married Sir Oswald Mosley, leader of the British fascist movement, while Mitford became enamoured of Hitler and shot herself in the head when war was declared. One of the six daughters of Lord and Lady Redesdale, Jessica eloped to Spain in 1938, aged 19, to fight with the Communists. She fell out with her sister, Diana, over Munich and they barely spoke for 50 years. At the age of 77, she and a backing group released a version of "Maxwell's Silver Hammer" which they sang on US television and on top of a circus elephant. Her son, Benjamin Treuhart, said her funeral would be as cheap as possible to avoid the bogus trappings she criticised in her book. "In fact the undertaker was expelled from the morticians' union for undercutting prices," he said. There would be no religious trappings to her cremation. "Maybe a few Marxist incantations," he added. The six black horses with white plumes that Ms Mitford humorously requested would not be present. Neither would she be embalmed although the author enthusiastically recalled "they can make you look 20 years younger".

Benefit ruling blow for Lilley

THE Government faces a bill running into hundreds of millions of pounds after the law lords yesterday ruled that residents of many local authority old people's homes should have become eligible for income support when the homes were transferred to voluntary sector ownership, writes David Brindle. One authority, Dorset, estimated it would receive 28 million in back-payments as a result of the lords' decision. The ruling is a substantial

setback for Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, in his drive to cut benefits spending. One in five social services authorities is expected to demand back-payments, as may some health authorities. Ted Kubisa, president of the Association of Directors of Social Services, said: "Local authorities have lost out very, very considerably over this." A DSS spokesman said the implications of the decision were being considered.

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July 25 1996

Artist wins top portrait prize at first try

Don Gialster Arts Correspondent

A 25-YEAR-OLD artist from Derbyshire won the £10,000 National Portrait Gallery's BP portrait award yesterday with a self-portrait.

James Hague beat almost 800 entrants to win the prize, Britain's most prestigious portrait award, and will receive a £2,000 commission for the National Portrait Gallery's contemporary collection.

The award is seen as an important stepping stone for young artists and is credited with reviving the position of portraits in modern art. It is open to painters aged 18 to 40.

The prize was presented last night at the National Portrait Gallery in Trafalgar Square by Jonathan Miller. The second prize of £4,000 went to Peter Anderson, and the third prize of £2,000 to Mark McPadden.

It is the first time Mr Hague has entered the competition, which is now in its 15th year. In 1994, he completed a degree in fine art at the University of Northumbria, and has been painting in France and Spain since graduating.

The award gained minor notoriety three years ago when the winning entry, a double portrait by Philip Harris, showing himself and his girlfriend lying naked in a dry river bed, was censored in some newspapers.

Of the 772 entries, 63 will be exhibited at the gallery. The exhibition leaves London in November, opening at the Aberdeen Art Gallery on November 2.



A window in memory of the estate agent Suzy Lamplugh is unveiled today at All Saints Church, East Sheen, London, commissioned by her family from designer Alan Younger to mark the 10th anniversary of her disappearance while at work. Women, G2, page 4

Study to consider RUC methods and the need for marching code

Mayhew orders review of use of plastic bullets

Peter Hetherington in Belfast

THE Government is to review the use of plastic bullets by the police in Northern Ireland along with the RUC's handling of marches and parades. It was announced last night.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said the Inspector of Constabulary would undertake a review of the RUC's procedures and training for handling public order situations.

The reviews were ordered in the wake of recent street violence following the Orange Order parade in Portadown which was first stopped and then permitted after loyalist disorder.

In answer to a written parliamentary question from

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist security spokesman, Sir Patrick said the review would take account of the disorder surrounding recent parades, including the Portadown stand-off when 6,000 rounds of plastic bullets were fired.

The review would also study the "need to ensure adequate protection of RUC officers faced with determined assaults and petrol bombers".

Sir Patrick also announced the terms of reference for a review of parades and marches.

He said the review would consider his own powers and those of the RUC, together with the adequacy of legislation.

It would study the need for new machinery, both formal and informal, to help in determining whether and how provisions should take place.

It would also look at "the possible role for, and composition of, codes of practice for the organisers of and participants in public processions".

The reviews are expected by the end of this year or early next year.

The Police Authority for Northern Ireland welcomed the announcements. Chairman Pat Armstrong said the review by the Inspector of Constabulary should "provide an objective and professional assessment of the RUC's capability for handling public order situations".

He also welcomed the terms of reference for the review of parades and pledged the authority would play a full part "and will be encouraging all those in positions of influence to do so well as well".

But the initiatives will be too late for the next emotive date on the loyalist calendar

— the Apprentice Boys' march, around the old walls of Londonderry, in two weeks' time.

With loyalists and nationalists on a collision course over the routing of the parade, both the Northern Ireland Office and the RUC have appealed to both sides to reach compromise locally. Instead, insults have been traded.

Apprentice Boys from throughout Northern Ireland were meeting in Londonderry last night to consider their next move.

But tensions have been raised further by the decision of the Bogside Residents Group to stage a march and rally tonight, from the loyalist enclave of the Waterside to the city centre, to commemorate the first civil rights marches 28 years ago. Unionist councillors say the march will be grossly provocative.

Crayfish threatens drought plans

Martin Wainwright on 'grey squirrel of the river' plaguing Yorkshire Water

Killer crayfish

Male white-clawed crayfish, 10cm long



Eat the pest

WAYS to help with the signal crayfish problem:

- Use old kippers as bait in a scumnet (mesh net) at the sluice (fishing station).
- Remember: when the frost is up, crayfish stop.
- Chant: 'Ting-a-ling-ling! Come warm the pot. Old Man Crayfish wants it hot.'
- Eat a la Suedo: plunge into boiling beer and saltwater, add bunch of fresh dill. Serve with ice cold pepper vodka.

Research by Caspar Will

An armoured crustacean, branded as a voracious cannibal and master of escape by government scientists, emerged yesterday as the latest threat to beleaguered Yorkshire Water's drought relief plans.

The firm is being threatened with prosecution if it institutes a proposed water transfer link to the Tees catchment in the North East. Emergency pipelines would breach a legal no-go corridor for signal crayfish — imported as a delicacy from the United States but now the target of some of the Government's toughest wildlife protection measures — according to Friends of the Earth.

The American crayfish is condemned by naturalists as the "grey squirrel of the river" because of its destruction of the smaller British white-clawed crayfish in south of England river basins where imported animals have escaped from fish farms.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment Agency have published leaflets describing the signal as aggressive escape artists capable of wiping out entire populations of native crayfish within days through predation, competition and a virulent fungal disease crayfish plague.

"We are confident the Environment Agency would have to bring a criminal case under the Government's protected species action plan introduced in May," said Matt Phillip of FoE.

He said the connection would breach amendments to the Wildlife and Countryside Act which have categorised the signal an invasive species and made assistance to its spread a criminal offence.

Yorkshire Water, which faces a raft of shareholder protests at its annual meeting in Harrogate today, acknowledged there was a problem following the discovery of signal crayfish in a Tees tributary whose water would be linked by transfer pipes to the rivers of North Yorkshire.

A Yorkshire Water spokeswoman said mesh screens would guarantee that signals could not enter the pipelines. She said the plague, which is carried by signals but does not affect them, was being studied. She said: "There is no evidence that crayfish plague is present in the Tees and Tyne, but we are conducting the most intensive survey yet of the two rivers."

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Bribe claim dismissed

Andrew Cull Media Correspondent

AN allegation by the failed lottery bidder Richard Branson that he had been the subject of a bribery attempt was dismissed yesterday in a report published by the lottery's regulator, Peter Davis.

The inquiry, conducted by criminal barrister Anne Rafferty, was boycotted by Mr Branson, chairman of the Virgin Group, who denounced the report as "worthless".

His allegation against Guy Snowden, co-chairman of GTEch, part of the winning Camelot lottery consortium, was made on BBC's Panorama last November. The

dispute between the two men is to be aired again in the High Court this year, each is suing the other for libel.

Mr Davis, director general of the National Lottery, said he would take no action as a result of the report. Ms Rafferty concluded: "I am not able to find as a fact there was any attempt to bribe Mr Richard Branson on September 24, 1995."

In the Panorama interview, Mr Branson said Mr Snowden had tried to secure his withdrawal from the race for a lottery licence.

Mr Snowden said in a written submission that he refused any untoward motive for his comments to Mr Branson at a working lunch at the latter's west London home.

Ms Rafferty said there was no hint that Camelot felt threatened by Mr Branson's bid, and the approach for lunch had come from him. She asked why it took Mr Branson two years to air his grievances.

Mr Branson said: "We expected the report to be worthless, and have not been disappointed. This is precisely why we refused to participate."

He felt the inquiry had not been sufficiently public and independent. He looked forward to the "verdict of a British jury, who will have had the chance of hearing both sides of the story."

A GTEch spokesman said: "GTEch are pleased that the Rafferty report has been published, and we welcome its conclusions."



James Hague's portrait, which won him £10,000.

Ireland declares war on 'untouchable' criminal gangs

Peter Hetherington in Belfast

TOUGH measures to crack down on organised crime in the Irish republic, after a wave of drug-related and terrorist shootings, will be rushed through parliament in Dublin today.

Amid public outrage after the murders of an award-winning crime journalist and a policeman, MPs will back a wide-ranging law and order

package involving recruitment of more policemen, extra prison places, fast-track court procedures and restrictions on bail — subject to a referendum in November.

Centrepieces of the strategy will be a new special unit drawn from the Garda Síochána, the tax authorities and the departments of finance and justice, with powers to seize the assets of criminals, labelled the "godfathers" of Ireland's crime world by the Taoiseach, John Bruton. He

has warned them: "You are not untouchable."

With 34 murders recorded so far this year — compared with a total of 45 for 1995 — and a sharp rise in other crime, Ireland's reputation as a largely law-abiding country has been tarnished.

Barry Galvin, state solicitor for Cork, warned recently that vigilante and terrorist shootings will escalate sharply unless drugs barons are targeted. The republic had become an "international

ally recognised" safe haven for people with criminal wealth. "They are living royally and quite openly with the proceeds of crime, particularly drugs," he said.

Pressure for tough measures came after the journalist Veronica Guerin, who had exposed a number of Dublin's criminal godfathers, was shot dead last month. Public anger had already been heightened by the murder of a policeman, Jerry McCabe, in Co Limerick three weeks earlier.

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Cyber cafe life in San Francisco at 8.30am on a Tuesday was, well, Dewsburyish. I was in danger of paying my quarters to talk to myself. Martin Wainwright

OnLine

Keeping you posted:

Customer advice about the Postal Strike

During the postal strikes, 24 hour telephone banking at First Direct will continue without interruption. However, some services by post may be affected and we have made special arrangements to keep inconvenience to a minimum.

Dates of the strike

- Friday 26th July (24 hours)
- Wednesday 31st July to Friday 2nd August (48 hours)
- Tuesday 6th August (24 hours)

Sending cheques by post

Since cheques sent by post will inevitably be delayed please use your nearest branch of Midland Bank to pay in urgent credits.

We regret that customers in Scotland may find this difficult due to limited access to Midland Bank branches. Sterling credits can be made at other banks, but you may find you are charged for this.

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The despatch of First Direct Travel Orders (foreign currency and travellers cheques) will not be affected during the postal strike. Orders will continue to be despatched by registered post. Please note that where delivery to an address has been unsuccessful the sorting/collection offices will be open for collection.

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If you request either sterling or foreign drafts from us we can arrange for you to collect them from your nearest Midland Bank branch. Certain Midland Bank branches will need at least 24 hours notice prior to collection. If you specifically request First Direct to post your draft you may experience a delay in receipt.

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unassigned new cards are not in the Royal Mail offices during the strike periods. You may therefore experience delays in receiving your cards. Receipt of your PIN and new cheque books may also be affected.

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Again, direct debit mandates and standing orders posted to us will be subject to delays during the strike period. To avoid this we encourage you to set up standing orders with us by telephone.

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If you are arranging your mortgage through us and are concerned about delays, your dedicated mortgage counsellor will be happy to discuss this with you.

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West heads for trade war

John Palmer in Brussels and Mark Tranter in New York

THE European Union and the United States edged closer to a trade war yesterday when President Clinton endorsed a bill empowering him to penalise companies investing in gas or oil projects in Iran and Libya.

"It's time to take real action against terrorism and the countries that sponsor it. Now the nations of the world will know they can trade with them or trade with us. They have to choose," said Alfonso D'Amato, a Republican senator from New York and chief sponsor of the bill.

Iran condemned the US moves, saying they were certain to prove ineffective. "It's nothing new, just the continuation of measures taken by American rulers to pressure independent countries," the foreign ministry said in Tehran.

The directive would allow European companies hit by US sanctions to sue for compensation in European courts. The European courts would be authorised to seize any assets in Europe held by an American company which initiated legal action against European businesses.

The British government has led the demand in the EU for effective European measures to counter US sanctions. The Foreign Office said yesterday: "We agree that there should be a common Western policy on Iran and Libya. But we cannot accept US pressure on its allies to impose sanctions under the threat of mandatory penalties on our companies carrying out trade with these countries in the oil and gas sectors."

The French government criticised the US measure yesterday. A foreign ministry spokesman said: "We do not accept the principle of extra-territorial application of national laws. The French oil company Total, which has investments in two oilfields in Libya and signed a \$400 million deal last year to develop an Iranian offshore oil and gas field, has said it will continue undeterred."



Salomon Blumberg-Fetngold, aged 78, kisses the hand of his sister Rebecca, aged 79, on their reunion in Rehovot, Israel, after 60 years separation. Rebecca left Poland for Palestine in 1936 and thought her whole family had died in the Holocaust until Salomon was traced in Russia through a series of coincidences. PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL KRAMER-YERUSHALAYIM

California vote fans racial heat

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

ANOTHER referendum on illegal immigration is being prepared by Conservatives in southern California, threatening to fuel hatred in a region already divided by racial strife.

The measure — drafted by the group that successfully lobbied for the discriminatory Proposition 187 — would make it an offence to let, sublet or sell property to illegal immigrants. It would enable businesses to sue competitors hiring workers without proper documents.

Jostling to be the mourner-in-chief

Even disasters such as the TWA crash do not deter politicians from playing politics. Ian Katz reports from New York

THE mayor is at war with the airline. The feds are furious with the governor. And the Republicans accuse the Democrats of failing to boost up airport security.

A week after TWA flight 800 crashed into the Atlantic off eastern Long Island, killing all 280 on board, investigators are still unable to establish the cause of the disaster. But one fact has emerged from the wreckage of the Boeing 747: politics does not stop when tragedy strikes.

The conflicting interests at work in the handling of the disaster were highlighted yesterday when angry relatives of the French passengers who died in the crash claimed that the United States had rejected offers of sophisticated French salvage technology for political reasons.

"I want my brother, I don't want politics," said Michael Oliver, one of the French relatives. He added that at the memorial service on Fire Island each speaker had thanked a

south of Los Angeles is the base for campaigners promoting the new initiative. Its opponents claim the initiative is as legally flawed as Proposition 187, which was passed with a strong majority in the 1994 elections. The supreme court found its provisions against providing health care and education to undocumented workers and their children unconstitutional.

Banana workers challenge evictions

Larry Rohrer in La Lima, Honduras

FROM the moment American fruit producers installed themselves in northern Honduras a century ago, La Lima has been the quintessential company town.

For most of that time, the company's word has been law. But now workers on banana plantations are resisting efforts by Chiquita Brands International to evict residents from land that has been worked on by up to three generations.

The company wants to offer the holdings to ranchers and developers, and says it needs to trim costs to increase production and remain competitive.

Troops, police and government mediators have all been called in to resolve a dispute that the Roman Catholic bishops of Honduras described in a recent pastoral letter as "the symbol of all agrarian conflicts". But that seems only to have fanned popular resentment of the corporation once known as the United Fruit Co.

It is clear that to be bearded has strong cultural associations with slovenliness, laziness and youthful rebellion. Like smoking pot, growing a beard is something that most students try once.

Mark Lawson

Spanish police hold 'three bombers'

SPANISH police arrested three members of the Basque separatist organisation ETA yesterday who they say were planning to consolidate the group's summer bombing campaign with an attack in the north-western region of Galicia.

'British spy wrote thrillers'

A RUSSIAN facing trial for spying for Britain was named by a Russian newspaper on Wednesday as a 28-year-old diplomat, part-time writer of espionage thrillers and son of a former deputy foreign minister.

Arrest for London blasts

AN ISRAELI court ordered a woman to be held for 10 days yesterday on suspicion of being involved in two 1984 bombings against Jewish targets in London, security sources said.

Old flames rekindled

AN ABANDONED Italian vented his anger by setting fire to the island beauty spots where he courted his wife, newspapers said yesterday.

Convict outsmarts judges

AN ISRAELI convict took revenge on his judges from his jail cell — by telephone.

Internet surfs into dictionary

CHINA has revamped its Modern Chinese Dictionary for the first time since its conception in 1956 to introduce contemporary phrases and excise revolutionary dogma, the chief editor said yesterday.

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No concessions as third prison protester dies

Turkey puts hunger strikers on notice

Chris Nuttall in Ankara

A THIRD prisoner died yesterday in the two-month hunger strike in Turkey's jails. The justice minister, Devlet Kazan, after an emergency visit to an Istanbul prison, called for an end to the strike, but offered no concessions.

"We will remain patient for some time, meaning we will not launch an operation," he told a press conference after a four-hour meeting with the Istanbul governor, police chief and prison directors. "However, this issue cannot occupy Turkey's agenda much longer."

The protest has become the severest test of Turkey's first Islamist-led government. Three prisoners have died since Sunday in Istanbul jails in the campaign for improved conditions, and many others are reported to be close to death, several having lapsed into comas.

Their lawyers say they could die at any moment. Mr Kazan visited the Ümraniye and Bayrampaşa prisons in Istanbul yesterday to hold talks on resolving the crisis.

The previous day he told parliament that the two jails were no longer under state control.

"The situation is so bad that prison officials cannot enter Bayrampaşa at all," he said.

"It is being managed by the 850-900 inmates there." The authorities are struggling to contain civil disorder outside the prisons.

Fifty people were arrested in Istanbul on Tuesday after a

Strife carried to Germany

GERMAN police are blaming supporters of the hunger strike by left-wing prisoners in Turkey for a wave of attacks on Turkish businesses in Germany, writes Denis Staunton in Berlin.

Shops, offices and mosques throughout Germany have been attacked during the past week.

A large warehouse for a Turkish-owned furniture company in Stuttgart was burnt down early yesterday.

An Islamic cultural centre in Pforzheim and a Turkish social club near Ludwigsburg were also attacked.

Twenty Turks of a "solidarity committee" in support of the hunger strikers occupied a Frankfurt office of the Social Democrats yesterday. They said the party's silence on the events in Turkey meant it must share the blame for the hunger strike.

mock funeral for one of the victims led to the police being stoned and attempts to erect barricades and set fire to buses.

Yesterday 30 demonstrators were arrested outside Bayrampaşa prison, there was a peaceful protest outside the justice ministry in Ankara, and 350 people staged a sit-down demonstration at Suca prison in Izmir, another jail where the government says it has lost control.

Two Turkish writers, Yasar Kemal and Orhan Pamuk, and a musician, Zulfu Livaneli, issued a statement yesterday saying the prisoners were facing for basic human rights not, as the government had claimed, for political demands.

"Our prisons are worse than hell," it read. "The hunger strike is the last resort of those who have lost all hope."

Mr Kemal accused the justice minister of beginning a holy war for the Welfare Party in the prisons. "But we will resist it," he said.

The government has been taken aback by the situation in the prisons. Mr Kazan told parliament that the strict regulations introduced by the previous coalition in May, which sparked the hunger strike, had been necessary.

He said some prisons had been turned into training centres for leftwing and Kurdish militants.

Under the new regulations, the government transferred some of the 9,000 inmates charged under anti-terrorism laws to remote jails to try to stop the practice, made possible by a ward system which groups dozens of prisoners together.

But Mr Kazan said the ring-leaders then organised the hunger strike, involving 2,547 of the prisoners, using their own axes and mobile phones.

He added that the relaxation of the regulations he ordered earlier this month had reduced the number of hunger strikers to just over 200.

Amnesty International has written to the prime minister, Necmettin Erbakan, supporting the prisoners' complaints of beatings, obstruction of medical treatment and transfers to remote prisons.



A soldier surveys the carnage caused by a bomb on a commuter train in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo yesterday. Up to 70 people are feared dead and more than 400 injured in the blast, which government ministers are blaming on the separatist Tamil Tiger rebels. The bomb went off at a railway station in the suburbs. PHOTOGRAPH BY DEXTER CRUEZ

Scores feared dead in blast

Prithi Kodagoda in Colombo

UP TO 70 people were killed and more than 450 injured when a bomb exploded in a packed commuter train in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo yesterday evening, the health minister, A.H.M. Fowzie, said.

"There are at least 67 dead. Altogether more than 450 people have been injured. Fifty to 60 are in bad shape with head injuries and the like," he said.

He said 287 people were being treated at Colombo's main general hospital and 200 at a government hospital near the blast site, a railway station in the suburb of Dehiwala.

The industrial development minister, C.V. Gooneratne, said separatist Tamil Tiger rebels were responsible for the attack.

The latest violence came as government troops recaptured the strategic army camp of Mullativu, in the north-east, from Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

Officials in Trincomalee, the naval base city in the east, said troops were searching the camp for possible booby-traps planted by guerrillas who left the camp after seven days of intense, bloody fighting.

"The troops are now within the perimeter of the camp," an official said. "It is stinking with corpses."

Earlier the Tamil Tigers said they had taken complete control of the camp, a claim the army denied.

Police said they had detained two men after the blast in Colombo, which happened at about 6pm local time, but their identities were unknown.

They said two crowded carriages were wrecked, indicating that there may have been two bombs.

Security officials said they had recovered the identity cards of army personnel from the wreckage. — Reuter. A Sri Lanka woman aged 31, living in the Swiss town of Rapperswil, was slightly injured by a bomb that exploded when she opened her letter box, police said yesterday.

China keeps nuclear test ban on hold

Joe McDonald in Jakarta

CHINA withheld its endorsement yesterday of proposals agreed by the United States and Russia to break the deadlock in the negotiations for a global ban on nuclear tests, but said that talks might produce an acceptable pact by September.

The accord reached by the US and Russia on Tuesday increased pressure on China to give ground on clauses dealing with enforcement of the ban, and other issues.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty negotiations, which missed a June 28 deadline, are to resume in Geneva on Monday.

The Chinese foreign minister, Qian Qichen, told the US secretary of state, Warren Christopher, at a meeting in Jakarta that Beijing was ready to work closely with Washington to resolve the remaining issues, a US official said.

Mr Qian said afterwards: "It is our hope that we can reach an agreement as soon as possible, so that the CTBT treaty can be ready for signatures in September when the General Assembly meets."

A key Chinese concern has been on-site inspections of suspected treaty violators.

Washington and Moscow agreed that an inspection could be authorised by a bare majority of the 61 treaty countries. China wants a two-thirds majority, making inspections more difficult to obtain.

It also wants to limit the technical means countries may use to implicate violators, fearing that its lack of spy satellites and other sophisticated detection equipment will put it at a disadvantage.

Another problem is India, which wants a promise to disarm from the declared nuclear powers, including China. — AP.

Megawati grows into power player

Harsh repression is making a star of Sukarno's daughter, reports Nick Cumming-Bruce

THE night guard at the gate of the Indonesian Democratic Party headquarters said: "Come inside please, it's an emergency." Behind him sat a motley band in red party T-shirts, armed with staves and ready for a fight.

"They had heard that groups of soldiers were preparing to occupy the premises. 'We told the military if they come we will burn the place,' a senior party member said later.

In the event, the night passed without incident. But tension is still running high.

Less than a year before parliamentary elections, the PDI's Jakarta headquarters is the focal point of a struggle by its populist leader Megawati Sukarnoputri to survive government and military efforts to undermine her.

Megawati, the daughter of independent Indonesia's first president, Sukarno, won the PDI's chairmanship in 1993 for a five-year term, only to lose it in June when a party faction, acting at the behest of the army, ousted her and installed a rival PDI leader, Suryardi, in her place.

A street rally by several thousand of her supporters in Jakarta soon after turned violent when they were charged by cane-wielding troops, leaving scores injured and possibly one man dead.

But to the embarrassment of the military, Megawati's supporters still hold the party headquarters.

President Suharto's New Order has used such tactics for 30 years to control this sprawling archipelago of

13,000 islands and 190 million people while he concentrated on economic development.

Faced with a party leader who might have won him in the presidential election in 1998, and seemed to be appealing to the young — there will be 20 million first-time voters in 1997 — Suharto did not hesitate to use them again.

But many Indonesians see the action as a blunder that demonstrates how the regime is losing touch with political reality.

"These politics of very unsubtle manipulation are no longer tolerated by society," warns political scientist, Dewi Fortuna Anwar.

The effect has been to generate a groundswell of support for a politician of hitherto meagre political muscle. The PDI occupies a mere 56 parliamentary seats out of the 490 that are elected — the rest are appointed by Suharto — and not all PDI MPs are Megawati supporters.

Suharto's agents have created what for the past 30 years he has successfully and ruthlessly suppressed.

"They are making her into a real opposition leader," Anwar comments. "People are sympathetic because of the way she has been treated. She has become a rallying point for all the people with a grievance."

At 49, Megawati lacks a track record of leadership and speaks with none of the fiery oratory of her charismatic father.

Yet her appearance at PDI headquarters, dressed in red and yellow, dressed in spectacles, electrifies waiting supporters who surge forward beating the air with clenched fists, chanting: "Victory for Megawati!"

Megawati owes her popularity less to her own talents than to being a Sukarno, Anwar suggests. The romantic appeal of the name is strong and she attracts support from a broad spectrum of nationalists, intellectuals and blue-collar workers.

Her simple style and patent sincerity strikes a chord with Indonesians disgusted by corruption and the fortunes amassed by the Suharto family.

Whether she can harness this dissent to sustain a long-term campaign is less clear. "There are so many factions, she is not in control," observes Juwono Sudarsono, another political scientist.

"The army's strategy is to wear down her support."

Megawati is seeking to keep the battle off the streets and in the courts. She is challenging the legality of the congress that ousted her and, until the courts rule otherwise, claims she remains legally the party leader.

Court proceedings could drag on for a year or two. In the meantime, the authorities have ruled her ineligible to contest next year's elections. Without an election campaign to keep her in the public eye, there is a danger that enthusiasm for her may flag.

Survivor tells of Omarska 'blood sports'

Ed Vulliamy in The Hague

THE account of a survivor of the Omarska concentration camp yesterday revealed new depths of brutality at the core of Bosnia's war. He described seeing a prisoner — watched by whooping guards, as though at a sports match — forced to perform fellatio on another inmate before biting off his testicles.

Halid Mujkanovic told the war crimes tribunal: "He got up, and his mouth was full of blood. He was forced by the guards to eat a live dove. Shortly afterwards he died of his wound."

The defendant, Dusko Tadic, is accused of taking part in this and other excruciating that day.

Rarely at these hearings have two central themes of the war been so starkly and horribly revealed: the twisted recreational aspect of the carnage and its macabre intimacy.

Mr Mujkanovic said that the crowd of Serbian guards who ordered and oversaw this barbarity "looked as though they were attending a sports

match, supporting a team". They fired excited shots into the air as the testicles were bitten off and later, while killing another man, played a song on the radio entitled Let Me Live as a soundtrack.

The victims who died in this frenzy of violence, of which the castration was only a part, had known each other, and Mr Tadic, since childhood.

Mr Tadic, who is charged with multiple war crimes, was identified by Mr Mujkanovic as among the group overseeing the mutilation and murders. But he did not say that Mr Tadic personally ordered the castration.

Mr Mujkanovic was screened off in the witness box and his face blanked out on closed circuit television monitors.

He said he had been one of the first prisoners to arrive at Omarska. After being interrogated, he was given a space on top of a locker in an empty corridor on the ground floor of a building. Soon his area was crowded, as were adjoining rooms and even stairs leading to the upper floor.

Mr Mujkanovic was repeatedly beaten by a guard who demanded money to keep him alive. He persuaded other prisoners to give him a watch and silver chain for the guard.

On June 18 1992 Mr Mujkanovic heard guards call out the names of several friends, including Emir Karabasic and Jasko Hrnici. (Mr Karabasic was Mr Tadic's best friend.)

The guards then demanded two "volunteers" from Mr Mujkanovic's locker area, saying that if they were not forthcoming someone would be killed. Two came forward — known as "G" and "H" in the trial. Other inmates ran upstairs, anxious to avoid a part in what was to follow.

Mr Mujkanovic, however, crouched behind an open door across his part of the corridor.

He covered his face with his hands, he said, but twice looked at the scene on the other side of the door. He heard someone shout "I am a pig. Like pigs."

He added: "I saw 'G' coming out of the corridor. He was all covered in oil... I saw — I can't quite say who it was — maybe Emir Karabasic or someone else, and 'H' was holding him down by the arms. Then 'G' had to bow down in his crotch and it was ordered to him that he must bite off his genitals."

"When I looked a second time, there was screaming. 'G' got up, with his mouth full of blood. He was still alive and it was given to this person to eat."

Mr Mujkanovic said that the group then turned on his friend Jasko Hrnici. "A soldier beat him with a metal iron bar. He fell, he showed no sign of life. Music was playing. Let Me Live was the title of the song... I ran upstairs to the toilet to throw up, even though I had not eaten anything."

In the indictment, the man castrated and murdered is named as Fikret Harabasic. Witness 'H' testified in closed session yesterday.

Peace force 'needed to halt new Bosnia war'

Reuter in Washington

WAR is likely to return to Bosnia if there is no international force after December, when Nato peacekeepers plan to leave, the chief of United States military intelligence said yesterday.

"Without such continued [international] engagement, it is, in my opinion, likely the former warring factions will turn once again to violent conflict in an attempt to achieve their aims," Lieutenant-General Patrick Hughes, director of the Defence Intelligence Agency, told senators.

He said Bosnian factions had not renounced their original goals, and the conditions for civil order had not yet been established.

He told the Senate intelligence committee that an effective international force in Bosnia was unlikely unless US ground troops were included. But he added that it was possible European allies could form a force of their own.

But the Greens argue that the scheme is unnecessary. Some traffic is already finding its way on to a new road through Umbria, and much more is due to be carried by a new high-speed train link passing through Florence.

The Greens hold the environment portfolio in the cabinet and 14 seats in each of the two houses. In the lower house, Prof Prodi depends on Communist Refoundation, Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires, for a four-seat edge over the other parties.

"His idea of public works is 19th century," the Greens leader, Carlo Ripa di Meana, said earlier this week. "His imagination is filled with vi-

John Hooper in Rome reports on a Green revolt and Olympic hopes

CO-POLITICS are threatening to sink Rome's hopes of staging the 2004 Olympics. In a letter released this week, the head of the Green party, which runs the city, revealed his opposition to the capital's bid.

Carlo Ripa di Meana, a former European Commissioner, told the organisers of the bid that the games would entail "very high and — in absolute terms — unavoidable environmental risks".

He said one reason for his opposition was that "commercial and promotional aspects have been taken over the Olympics of the modern era at an alarming rate".

Rome had been the front-runner in a field which includes Stockholm, Athens, Lille, Istanbul, Cape Town, Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires. But wholehearted political backing is a key

element of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) looks for in a candidacy.

The organisers of Rome's bid had hoped for an endorsement from Mr Ripa di Meana which they could include in the formal submission to the IOC next month.

Instead they got a reply stating his opposition, while noting the "favourable opinion of very important Green representatives, such as the mayor of Rome, Francesco Rutelli".

The letter has encouraged other opponents. Paolo Ferrero, sports spokesman for Communist Refoundation, the party on which the centre-left coalition relies for its majority, said the 2004 Olympics should go to Cape Town, where they could become a celebration of human fellowship.

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One up to the protesters

But the World Service is not out of the wood yet

THE FOREIGN OFFICE and the BBC have wisely bowed to public pressure; yesterday they set up a working group to examine the impact of John Birt's controversial plans to integrate the English language side of the World Service with mainstream BBC departments. This is a constructive move — particularly if independent bodies like the National Audit Office are involved — but it doesn't allay fears about the BBC's ultimate ambitions.

Two things need to be done. First, as Robin Cook said yesterday, the reorganisation should be frozen while the inquiry is taking place; second, the group needs a strong independent chairman. At the moment it consists of Christopher Battiscombe, a Foreign Office civil servant and Sam Younger, managing director of the World Service. Mr Younger brings a wealth of experience to the task but since John Birt is his boss and since he has accepted the Birt reforms in principle (after first contemplating resignation) he can hardly be expected to be as objective as an independent chairman. Mr Battiscombe for his part is there to carry out the Foreign Office's brief.

Part of this is to convey the FO's displeasure at not being consulted in advance over the BBC's radical plans even though the FO — on behalf of the taxpayer — funds the World Service to the tune of £165 million a year. That's fine. The BBC deserves all it will get for its arrogance in ignoring its own payer. But that is only part of the story. The FO is also the villain of the piece in that, as its contribution to Treasury reductions in its own budget, it has cut the parliamentary grant to the World Service from £160 million in 1995/96 to only £147.5 million in 1997/98. This was done without analysis about the usefulness of the Service compared with other FO activities which could have been cut instead.

Although the FO is under the impression as a result of yesterday's meeting that no irreversible reforms will be made while the working group is deliberating, the BBC's interpretation is rather different. It seems to think it can push on with its ill-considered reforms while the monitoring process is taking place. The danger is that a succession of seemingly small changes will irreversibly alter the character of the World Service even while the group is in the throes of talking.

Next week's report of the foreign affairs select committee is expected to urge ministers not to accept BBC assurances that their reforms will benefit the World Service in view of their poor track record on consultation so far. The committee is also likely to suggest that Mr Birt reports regularly to the select committee. That's alright as long as he changes his errant ways and doesn't proceed unrepentantly with the changes in order to justify them afterwards to the committee.

The BBC's governors are due to meet today. Normally such meetings are low-key events with the governors rubber-stamping what the BBC executives have decided. This time it ought to be different. The BBC is proposing something which could irreversibly change the culture of the World Service which is almost universally acknowledged as the world leader in its field. We don't have many such activities and we should be careful not to ruin a winning formula. The governors may be inclined to back the BBC's judgment simply because they are unsure about the consequences. That would be a mistake. They should note the unprecedented opposition — including yesterday's letter from 144 distinguished people — and give the World Service the benefit of any doubts. At the very least they should freeze the reforms until the implications have been fully discussed.

Strike no medals for Mr Major

Britain is too much of an also-ran for sports facilities

HAS any athlete ever had a faster reply? Early yesterday Paul Palmer, the hero of the hour as Britain's first 1996 Olympics medal winner, was brutally frank about sports facilities in Britain: "We need backing from the Government if we are to win more medals and especially gold ones. But they only think about swimming and gymnastics every four years when the Olympics come round." Just hours later, the Prime Minister spoke before a gathering of sports people in the Downing Street garden to celebrate the first anniversary of his green paper on sport. The press packs were jammed with statistics recording progress on last year's 38 "action points": more coaching, more PE, more facilities, more out-of-school activities, new schools specialising in sports, a doubling of university sports scholarships, plus a spanking new £100 million national academy of sport.

Eat your words, Palmer? Clearly the Prime Minister, who praised our new silver medal winner, thought so. In a brazen piece of self and party promotion he declared: "Last year's sport policy statement contained the most important set of proposals ever published to develop, encourage, and promote sport in our country." Up to a point, Lord Copper. John Major is a genuine sports fan. He's right to be dismayed by the current level of sports activities. He deserves support for his campaign to widen opportunities and raise standards. Sport does promote, as this week's television coverage from At-

lanta dramatically demonstrates, concentration, commitment, self-discipline, team spirit and fun. Unlike previous Major initiatives — come lines, motorway lavatories — progress has been achieved since his highly publicised personal pledge. But it is not carrying to suggest the Prime Minister's claim, like some energetic Olympic gymnasts, has "over-rotated".

Progress has been achieved but the reason why sport in such a dire state was a direct responsibility of the Government. It was not just the Opposition which pointed this out yesterday but a former Conservative education minister, Sir Rhodes Boyson, who with refreshing honesty noted the disastrous withdrawal of teachers from voluntary activities in 1985 following a new tighter teachers' contract. He could have noted a 70 per cent drop (in just three years in the 1980s) of school sports fixtures. And he might have added the sale of 5,000 school playing fields since 1979 by cash-strapped education authorities. Sceptics will note that the new sport initiatives are almost entirely being funded by the Lottery. The National Lottery Sports Fund received £400 million in its first year. Far from being embarrassed by breaking the ministerial promise not to use the Lottery for essential public services, the Prime Minister claimed it as a virtue yesterday. Paul Palmer was right: Mr Major will not create "a ladder of sporting opportunity" without Treasury, as well as Lottery, funds.

A discord in the Borough

Time to back Britten by public subscription

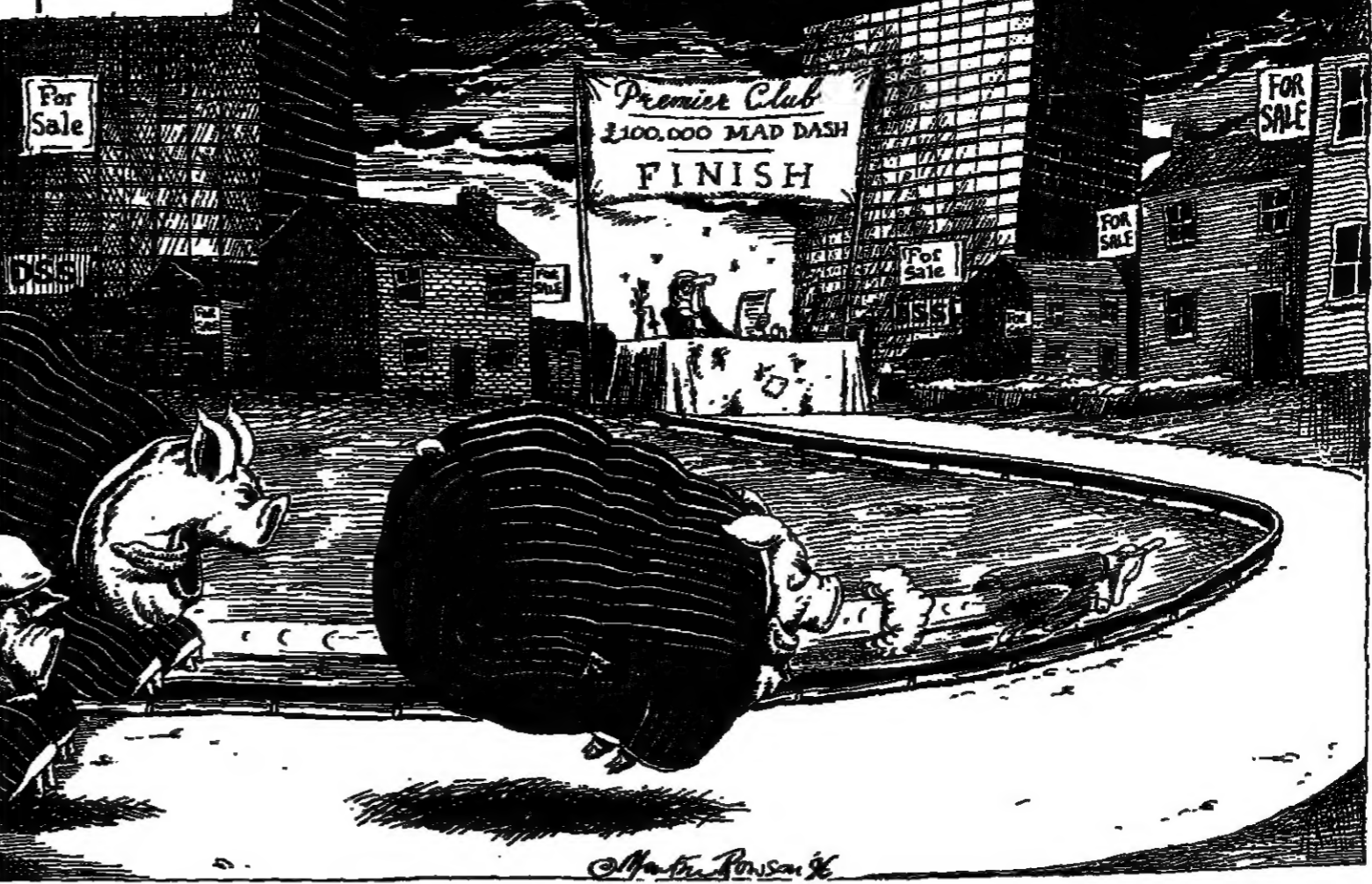
WHAT WISE old St Matthew said about prophets being without honour in their own country appears to have been triumphantly vindicated in Aldeburgh this week, where the town council has voted not to erect a statue of Benjamin Britten in the churchyard in which he is buried. He's already got a plaque and a stained glass window and that, the councillors apparently think, is enough.

The motives for this decision take some disentangling. "It is not as if Benjamin Britten was born and bred in Aldeburgh" says the town clerk coldly. "He was born in Lowestoft." But that was surely the fault of his parents, for which his long residence in the town, his part in creating its festival, and the fact that this modest town on the Suffolk seaboard is now famous all over the world, might seem to be suitable reparation. Then, some in Conservative Suffolk may be troubled by his

homosexuality, his leftist friends, or his flight to the USA at the start of the war. Or perhaps they simply feel the great composer, with his outbursts of petulance, his fickle affections, his cold treatment of collaborators, was not a very nice chap. Maybe so. But if only very nice people were thought deserving of statues, there would be empty plinths all over London today.

But what seems to have counted most was the need for prudent housekeeping. They've just spent £13,000 on a new play area which in the town clerk's opinion is of far greater practical benefit than any statue or bust. The answer here is that Britten's statue ought to be funded, as so many statues of Victorian civic dignitaries were, by public subscription. Let them put out the collecting boxes at every exit at Snape. Local opposition can be expected to crumble if the cost of the operation can be passed to somebody else.

Sport for all



Letters to the Editor

Enemy within Spain

JOHN Hooper (Copy cat terrorists, July 23) is not altogether accurate in distinguishing the Basque conflict from the Northern Irish as lacking a sectarian element. As he points out, ETA's attacks on some Basque (rather than non-Basque) targets is a recent development — a response to Herri Batasuna's abject failure to expand or even maintain their support within the Basque country — and negatively confirms that in general ETA's enemy has been defined as "Spanish".

Hooper doesn't mention the most striking difference, however. There is no coherent argument whatsoever confirming that the Basque country is systematically denied democratic rights by the post-Franco Spanish state.

Not only does Euzkadi have a high degree of autonomy, but along with Catalunya it is the richest region in Spain — not exactly a traditional indicator of oppression. Unlike

the Basque country, Northern Ireland is an intrinsically sectarian creation, and northern nationalists are still systematically discriminated against as even official social statistics confirm.

It is all the more sad and ironic that while ETA's reactionary struggle escalates militarily, the Irish peace process has been curtailed. Irish republicanism is a pan-nationalist — and therefore sectarian — dead-end. The similarity between Basque nationalism and Irish republicanism is a regrettable recent phenomenon.

Jack Fox, Mojarar, Almeria, Spain.

AM saddened to see in your front page article (ETA escalates resort bombings, July 22), that you refer to the bombers as Basques in general and not as ETA in particular. ETA no more symbolises the Basque people than

Shock horror! Julie's back

WHY have you resurrected Julie Burchill? What she has to say tells us nothing about the state of Britain or the world (Return of the Mouth, G2, July 23). It only tells us that she continues to have vast, hateful hang-ups. Her only consistent position is that she is anti-worship, middle class liberals — a puerile aunt sally if ever there was one. The end result is that she hits out at everything in sight, contradicting herself time and time again. She says that "at least John Prescott's married to a good, Methodist woman". Methodist is good because

Cherie Blair is Catholic. However in the next column Blair is bad because his message is "go back to hearth and home and Methodist Sunday school".

She says "I always had an eye for a pretty girl". Shock horror, how amazing, really cool. Until the next column when suddenly, "I don't find women attractive at all, frankly".

She's for working class authoritarian values but would restore the death penalty for all murders except those of policemen. Careful Julie — the working class wouldn't like that. Your trendy lefty side is showing. But lastly, how can we take someone seriously who claims to be a Thatcherite and a Soviet style communist? Her poor father must wince.

Arthur Gould, Senior Lecturer in Social Policy, Loughborough University, Loughborough LE11 3TU.

ICAN only conclude that whoever called Julie Burchill "the most brilliant woman in Britain needs to get out more. Simon Beer, 151a Packington Street, Kington, London N1 8RA.

JULIE Burchill must be one of the few people left alive who is capable of worsening the reputation of communism. Peter Smees, 37 Hanover Road, Norwich NR2 2HD.



Dancing all the way to the gold

IS it not ironic that the Olympic Games, which opened with "doves of peace" made of paper, should award the first medals to shooting events?

R W Cotton, 22 Salix House, Shirley Road, Abbots Langley, Herts WD5 0NF.

ANDREW Moncur (Last Tango in Atlanta, July 22) asks who cares whether ballroom dancing is in the Olympics or not. Frankly, a lot more people than give a damn about dressage, pole vault or synchronised swimming.

Is there any question that years of training, talent, skillful coaching, peak physical fitness and a determination bordering on obsession, describe any top competitor, including dance? Your writer may be correct to ask whether the majority would know the difference between a tango and a bossa nova but does it matter? Sometimes no one can see who won a race without a slow-motion replay. Joe Public does not understand the

finer points of a gymnastic display, and he probably cannot differentiate between an ice skater's triple lutz and triple salchow. This does not prevent viewers watching in their millions, and feeling proud when a medal is won.

Could it be that Britain is good at ballroom dancing and has a realistic chance of gold? V S R Anderson, 263 Norwood Road, London SE24 9AG.

THE decision by Muhammad Ali, once "the greatest" athlete in the world and now affected by a form of parkinsonism, to light the Olympic flame should be applauded. 120,000 people in the UK have Parkinson's disease, a progressive movement disorder. The fact that Ali stood before a worldwide television audience can only have helped raised awareness of the condition.

Barry Brookling, Chief Executive, Parkinson's Disease Society, Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0RA.

Importance of Treasury kids

THE Treasury study into the privatisation of the Welfare State was dismissed by Kenneth Clarke as the work of "kids in the office". Yet within a few days Peter Lilley announces the privatisation of child benefit. Are these "kids" the offspring of Mystic Meg or the playmates of the "Chicago Boys" — those advocates of policies which have destroyed welfare states across the globe?

The "kids in the office" are the same grades as those who, after almost 20 years of involvement in flexible working hours schemes, are now being told by the DPEE management that they will be excluded from them. Presumably because of the importance of their work. Hardly "kids stuff" — though backward looking in the department responsible for equal opportunity policies including the reconciliation of professional and family life.

Peter Lamb, Vice President, The Public Services, Tax and Commerce Union, 5 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0NS.

Pain barrier to understanding

ELIZABETH Peacock and Ann Furedi (Women, G2, July 23) ignore important evidence. The first is the nearly universal experience of being born by vaginal delivery. For any sentient human being, having your head squeezed to the point of deformity would be highly unpleasant, even without the additional discomfort of the things that obstetricians often have to do to assist the birth process. Yet nobody remembers being born.

Secondly the many millions of male infants who are circumcised shortly after birth without anaesthesia, don't remember it either. (I speak from personal experience.)

Under anaesthesia, many patients visibly respond to incision but provided they don't remember being operated on they are usually satisfied even if the anaesthetic was technically incompetent.

Pain that cannot be remembered doesn't worry people. Even if the anti-abortionists don't accept my argument, the most they could logically request is that all abortions should be carried out under general anaesthesia rather than local.

Colin Brewer, 254 Eccleston Street, Belgrave, London SW1W 9NP.

Elizabeth Peacock were to hit her hand with a hammer

A Country Diary

DURHAM. Two years ago the final crop of barley was taken from these fields. They were earmarked for building until financial cuts intervened and the land earned an unexpected reprieve. The fields' first year of freedom was the year of the poppies. They appeared in thousands amongst the last traces of the barley, especially where soil had been disturbed. Amongst cultural weeds — wild oats, field pansy, mayweeds, hawkweeds, ragwort whose seeds had lain dormant in the soil, undefeated by the sprayer. But this year they are playing a supporting role. The parachute regiment of the plant world has taken over. 1996 is the year of the thistles. On the dry hill top, flat rosettes of spear thistle that dug in last autumn have sent up dense ranks of armoured stems topped with woolly purple flowers, contrasting with ragwort's massed mop-heads of gold stars. In a dip in the ground where the soil is permanently moist, a strongpoint of

creeping thistle has established itself in a waving sea of grasses and is extending its perimeter. Amongst so many individual plants of each species there are intriguing variations. Some of the spear thistles are fasciated, with several stems welded together through some accident of development, and crowned with a cockscomb of coalesced blooms. One ragwort plant is much paler than the rest, with crisped leaves and cream flowers. A crop of pop-weeds has replaced years of cereal monoculture and has led to a population explosion of butterflies and bumblebees. Small tortoiseshells and meadow browns have a tenacious feeding station while the thistle leaves are a perfect egg-laying site for the migrant painted ladies that arrived so early this year. And as the first thistles near to seed, the goldfinches, yellowhammers and linnets are arriving to share in the windfall.

PHIL GATES.

July 24 1996

Diary Dan Atkinson

HARTY eaters of a tradition's stamp, enraged by the ban on sheep's brains, ought to book in for a week or two at University Hospital of Wales, where they can tuck in to the sort of non-PC scotch last available some time during the reign of Henry VIII, including "meat and edible offal of cattle, pigs, goats, horses and asses".

MEANWHILE, parents of school-age children in Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Somerset were intrigued when the publishers of Our School Magazine—a periodical distributed through primary schools and full of jolly tales about what to do in the holidays and so forth—made urgent contact and requested immediate destruction of the issue circulated a fortnight ago.

WOMEN in Parliament may not have the easiest of times, but there are one or two gallant old conventions that help them through the day. One is that no male MP would dream of exercising his technical right to jump the Commons and queue in the small hours if the only non-Member ahead of him were a single woman.

FINALLY, a report from elsewhere in the tax trade. Steve "I'm free" Norris yesterday celebrated his voluntary return to the backbenches by launching with Sean the ex-Treasury minister John Mapple (he of leaked-memo fame) at the Caprice in St James's. When he emerged it was raining. The ministerial car? Gone, of course. SN cab for years; it was his first. Well, he was minister for London transport.

Battle of snakes and ladders

Commentary Hugo Young

THIS is a happy day for John Major. No more questions, no more squirming answers, no parliamentary party in convulse assembled, no treacherous bastards ceaselessly manipulating it. Politics does not go to sleep, but its capacity to wreck the leader disappears for three months. This is the moment Major has been waiting for.

A month ago, in one of the realms of possibility, Mr Major was yet again finished. He counted the days until Parliament rose. I heard ministers checking off the crises they had to survive before reaching the green uplands from which the Commons are for ever absent.

ground from which, with a Budget and Queen's Speech to come, they could dictate the course of politics up to the election. This was always fanciful, but at a time when most cows had taken over Tory politics, it was an irresistible dream of paradise. When small mercies are the only ones available, survival is satisfaction enough for Mr Major's hardened ego.

secure local by-election results, recently scrutinised for their national significance. Labour's problem making sense of its constitutional reforms nourishes one of his more passionate zones of self-belief. But mostly, if the Tories lose, Major can take it. Of all participants, curiously, he will be the least damaged. He will have done the top job for more than six years. By his own lights, ambition satiated, he'll have done it well. This verdict may be widely contested, but that won't affect his own judgment of what has happened, in particular, to the economy. When he speculates about this privately, it is with sorrow more than anger.

That someone else, however, is in a content. He thinks he is probably going to win, though he never says so other than by ritual incantation: "When I am Prime Minister..." At the end of this session, two years after he became leader, a new Blair is detectable. Gone is the smiling and the instant charm, the trade-marks of apprenticeship. Gone also, therefore, the brilliant skating over the surface of politics, the facade

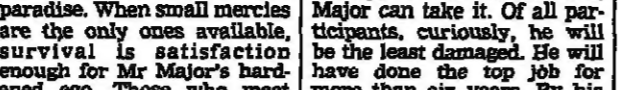
encompassing of everything within the project of New Labour. Up close, instead, what's more apparent is the testiness of leadership denied. This is the natural evolution of a serious man. Real leadership is neither a painless nor a joyful business. The passing of the great smile shows us that Blair knows what future life is going to be about. This is encouraging. It reminds us how vastly greater are the stakes for Blair than they are for Major, and how angst-ridden the coming months will be.

How vastly greater are the stakes for Blair than for Major, how angst-ridden the coming months will be

doing it, moreover, at the head of a body, the Parliamentary Labour Party, which is indispensable to his existence and yet, of all Labour's institutions, the least amenable to his project. Mr Blair does not much like the PLP but, however many appeals are made to the party membership at large, the PLP continues to have power to thwart the leader and confuse the image of Labour he is trying daily to put across. If his belief that if the public

understand Labour to be what he says it is Labour cannot lose, also his belief that a mere handful of MPs can mess up this public understanding, with disastrous effect. So Mr Blair is not happy. He faces nine more months of this. For idle hands and righteous minds, they offer many opportunities to make trouble. He is committed, quite profoundly, to the belief that only in power will Labour be able to show its true self to the nation, banishing the alarm and proving that the end of Thatcherism is not the end of the world. The period before power is being treated as a period of near-paralysis, when awfully little can be promised. And even though this strategy has been laid down by the leader, it fore-shadows for him a period of maximum discomfort, especially if the polls begin to slide.

Notice anything different about me today?



Mark Lawson

RECENTLY, during a discussion on one of those personalities who are not completely the person they used to be — Pamela Anderson, perhaps, or Michael Jackson — I was asked about my views on cosmetic surgery. I came out strongly against it, which was perhaps dishonest, as I was already planning a significant alteration to my own face. Two weeks ago, after 16 years as a stranger to the razor, I removed my beard.

Beards — at least since Gillette became a household name — have always been a prickly subject. A man who has one is widely assumed to be a tramp or a liberal (male readers of this newspaper are, in the right-wing parody of them, generally said to be non-shavers) or to have something to hide: whether because he is a criminal seeking to outwit the Photofit or because he dislikes some aspect of himself. Margaret Thatcher was known to refuse preferment to those with face-fur. Earlier this year, the whisky bristled again when a firm of image consultants released polling showing that voters distrusted candidates whose chins couldn't see.

Not least because of a clean-shaven antonym "clean-shaven", it is clear that to be bearded has strong cultural associations with slovenliness, laziness and youthful rebellion. Like smoking pot, growing a beard is something that most students try once. (There exist pictures of both Bill Clinton and John Selwyn Gummer, for example, with tufted chins.) Only in the Greek Orthodox Church do beards seem to speak of authority. Although, encouragingly, Richard Branson — winner of newspaper polls to discover schoolchildren's role models and the people's candidates for the first president of a British republic — does not seem to have been held back by his attitude to shaving, even though he boldly attempts the goatee, which is surely the trickiest of options, being literally neither one thing nor the other.

My own chin history is that I originally stopped shaving because I tended to be taken as much younger than I was, which could be a social and professional disadvantage. This year, now tending to be taken as much older than I am, and spotting the first white bristles, van-

ty prompted a chin rethink. The 50s is just about young enough for a beard to have been a phase rather than — as for David Bellamy, say, or Archbishop Makarios — a trademark. There was also the matter of a lightning director at the BBC who had been complaining for some time that beards made his job problematic, tending to wrap an unwelcome cravat of shadow around the presenter's neck.

One Saturday morning in Boots, I bought an electric razor. My beard had always been a tightly-cropped one — the beard-trimmer I used for grooming it permitted settings from one to six (roughly, George Michael to David Bellamy) and I had some sense, so I had it removed without recourse to foam and blade.

The operation took 10 minutes. It did not feel like the psychological amputation I had feared, and revealed no unsuspected aches beyond a tiny scar from adult-onset chicken pox above my lip. Looking in the mirror was like looking at an old photograph, now slightly blurred. The main strangeness was a two-tone face, weathered at the top, white where the sunshield had protected it. When I shook out the razor-head, there was a handful of duet with the colour of paper and the consistency of instant coffee. I briefly toyed with keeping it in a box — as some people do their extracted kidney or gall stones — but then swirled it down the wash-basin.

THERE were two strange things about my new clean-shaven face. The first was a new range of sensations. My exposed chin felt terribly cold. Reading broadsheet newspapers, the breeze against my newly-naked jawls from the turning pages was nearly intolerable. It was two days before I discovered a thermometer at the bottom of my face switched off.

The second oddity was how little my transformation was noticed. I'll never trust again those thriller plots in which men escape identification by the addition of subtraction of a beard. My wife noticed, but she had been forewarned and was waiting outside the bathroom door for an unveiling. But neither of my children spotted any alteration and a television producer, with whom I worked on a series last year, saw no metamorphosis when I reported to shoot series two last week, despite the fact that he had just watched the tapes of the shows from the bearded era.

This was not particularly upsetting, as my face-job cost no more than the price of an electric razor, but if you are thinking of heading to a doctor in Beverly Hills, it might be worth bearing this moral in mind.

Advertisement "Between a third and a half of all cancers are caused by eating the wrong types of food" by Vernon Coleman

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Balance of power

Who will get priority under New Labour — an unemployed man whose wife is sick, or a new millionaire? Roy Hattersley asks what the party believes in

AT last, I have found a reason to admire David Willetts. For months I have thought of him as Macaulay thought of Chatterton — "a young man whose genius is more discernible than observed". Then, on the radio last Sunday, he was asked to justify a nurse earning so little when a popstar earned so much. His response was a passable précis of Eysark's famous dictum on wages in the free market: "The manner in which benefits and burdens are apportioned... would in many instances be regarded as very unjust if it were the deliberate result of allocation... But to demand justice from such a process is absurd." That notion is obviously both intellectually and morally flawed: it implies that injustices cannot be corrected. But nevertheless I rejoiced to hear it articulated. Mr Willetts believes in the sovereignty of the market. So he applied that first principle to wages as he applies it to everything else. Here was a politician with a consistent, if palpably inadequate, ideological view.

Gordon Brown, on the same programme, occupied the diametrically opposite position. Everything that he proposed — a little more social justice, a moderate level of incentives and the avoidance of unnecessary regulation — sounded right and reasonable. But, in

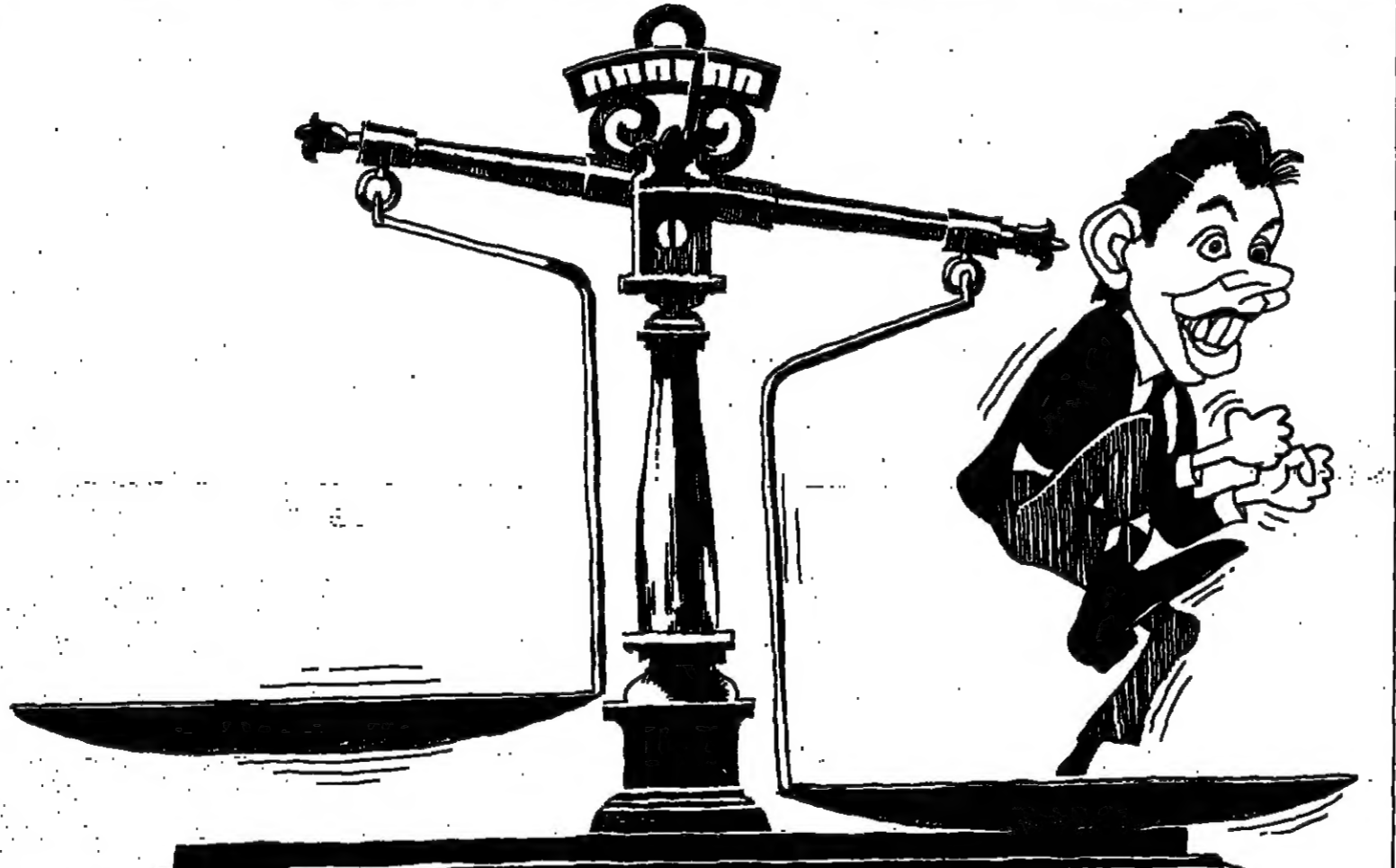
more likely to ripen and find expression, if social inequalities are, as far as practicable, diminished. The hope is to diminish rather than completely to eliminate social inequalities, and even then the aspiration is qualified by the phrase "as far as practicable". Equality of outcome is hardly an extreme doctrine, and it would, however, provide Labour with the prospect of ideological consistency and intellectual coherence. The party would be elevated on to the high ground of politics where decisions are not always based on opinion surveys, and would avoid the embarrassing confusion which party spokesmen now exhibit when they speak of equality of opportunity. For unless Willetts is right, and it amounts to no more than a free-for-all in which the tough and the talented rise to the top, equality of opportunity has to be built on the foundation of equality of outcome. Tawney wrote, and every subsequent social survey has confirmed, that "it is only the presence of a large degree of practical equality which can diffuse the general opportunities to rise."

A visible example of that truth walked into my constituency two weeks ago. It took the form of an unemployed man of 45 with a sick wife and two children. The whole family existed on £25 a month and lived in a house which possessed none of the basic amenities. Increased equality of opportunity will pass him by. He will not benefit from a new training initiative or find a job through the computerised vacancy-notification sys-

tem. His family needs money to alleviate its suffering. And the children need better clothes, better food, better medical care and the bonus of pre-school education to make equality of opportunity for them anything except a sick joke. In a decent society there is "an equal start as well as an open road". That is Tawney again and will, therefore, be dismissed on the wider shores of New Labour as old-fashioned. But the battle about what the party should stand for ought to be fought over logic and morality, not the data on which theories were first published. After all, the Willetts of this world place absolute faith in a theory which they imagine Adam Smith set out in 1776 — though, in truth, he was not the advocate of the unfettered market which they suppose him to be. Belief in that theory saw Thatcherite Tories through years of difficulty which might have turned into despair had they not retained faith in the ideas which guided the government. Labour, facing the difficulties of office, would do well to find an equal certainty. Equality of outcome is waiting to fill the void.

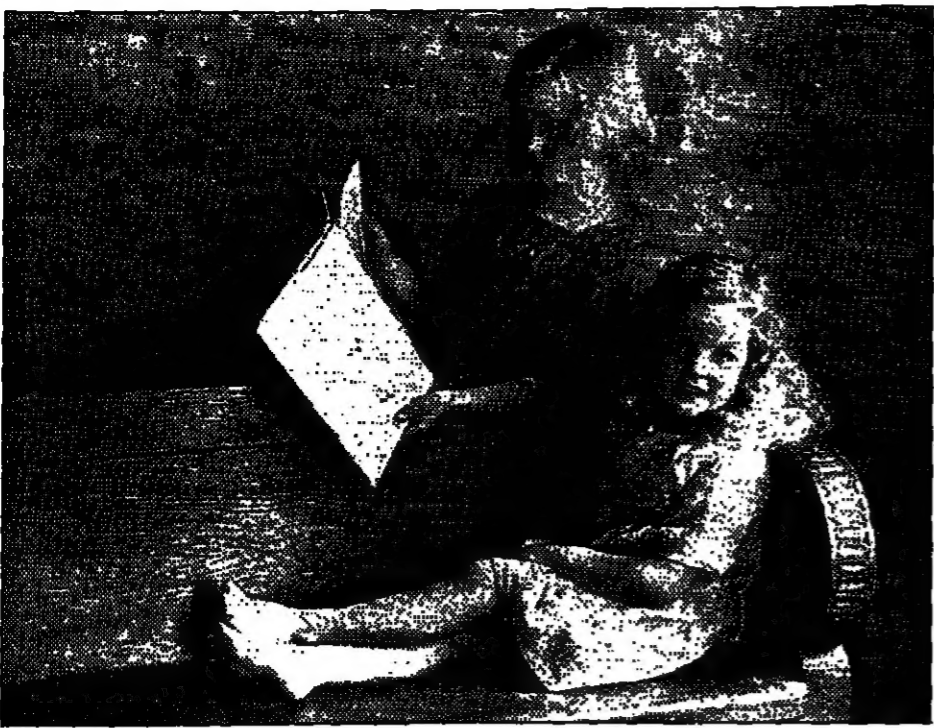
Labour should judge every policy proposal against a simple criterion. Would the outcome increase or reduce equality? Sometimes the government would be forced to choose the option which divided rather than united society. But by constantly asking the question, it would maintain its commitment to the basic object of a more equal society. There is no reason why that commitment should be fanatically discharged. A month or so ago, Tony Blair was reported to be saying that he wanted to build a dynamic

economy which constantly created new millionaires. I share the view that the two things go together. But the government which he leads ought to ask what policies, when applied to the recently wealthy — would produce the outcome of greater equality. The obvious answer is an increase in their tax rates to finance the programmes which help to make the equality of opportunity a reality. One of the advantages of talking political philosophy seriously — and choosing a basic principle to live by — is the protection which it provides against treating fashionable nonsense as if it was revealed truth. So — in the case of the recent millionaires — examining ideas rather than opinion polls would liberate Labour from believing all the self-serving nonsense about the damage done to enterprise by a penny on the basic rate. The study of equality theory would remind the party leadership that "it is the duty of democratic governments to adjudicate when liberties collide". Unless they have become disciples of Hayek, they will believe that liberty is more than the absence of restraint. So they will wish to balance the liberty of the new millionaires to keep and spend an extra £1,000 with the liberty of the 45-year-old man in my constituency to feed and clothe his children. There is no doubt which choice should be made by a left-of-centre government. A clear and consistent ideological commitment will help ministers summon up enough courage to make it. It is important to believe in something. And if New Labour does not believe in real equality, what does it believe in?



Peter Chubb

Published by the European Medical Journal



Before the divide... Jessica (front) with sister Unity at Asthall Manor in 1923

Jessica Mitford

Of danger ne'er afraid

THE WRITER Jessica Mitford, who has died aged 78, was the second youngest of the famous — or in the case of the two who became fascist supporters, infamous — Mitford sisters. They shared, in the 1920s, the best-known and most exhaustively described nursery in 20th-century England, outside Buckingham Palace. It was Nancy, the eldest of the six daughters of the second Baron Redesdale, who laid the foundations of what became a Mitford industry; her novel *The Pursuit of Love* (1945), sold a million copies with its lightly disguised family portraits. Jessica gave the industry a further push in 1960 with *Hons and Rebels*. She was always a competitor, and eventually decided that if Nancy could produce best-sellers, so could she; the result, a purportedly factual account of her upbringing and youthful adventures, enchanted middle-class England with its picture of upper-class eccentricities, private jokes, language and nicknames, and established Jessica in Nancy's wake as another Mitford writer to watch. Members of her family were less amused, finding the book unfair and in places distorted.

Her confidence established, Jessica next took on a more demanding target: the powerful and devious American funeral business. *The American Way of Death* (1968), funny, brave and devastating, consolidated her reputation, showing that she was a writer with nerve and social purpose, and not merely a competent and eventually tired chronicler. Both these books are on their way to becoming minor 20th-century classics.

Known to family and friends as Decca, or Dec, Jessica Mitford was brought up in the Cotswolds, first at a capacious Jacobean country house, Asthall Manor, and then at a new house built by her father, Swinbrook House, nearby. The sisters were Nancy, Unity, who was Hitler's friend; Diana, who married the fascist Sir Oswald Mosley; Pam, who married the extremely rich and equally eccentric spectroscopist Professor Derek Jackson; and Deborah, the Duchess of Devonshire. A brother, Tom, was killed in the second world war.

Decca remained friends with Nancy, Pam, and Debo; but not with Lady Mosley. When she invited Decca's son to stay in Paris, Decca replied

that she thought it a bad idea; he was half-Jewish and she did not want him turned into a lampshade.

Her independence of mind and conduct became apparent in the nursery, when at the age of 12 she opened a Running Away Account at a grand London bank. As a teenager, she subscribed to the *Daily Worker* and pinned up the Hammer and Sickle in her room while Unity was pinning up portraits of Hitler. She announced that she was a pacifist.

In 1937 came a much publicised episode when she eloped to Spain with Esmond Romilly, a nephew of Winston Churchill. Romilly had run away from Wellington aged 15 determined to subvert the public school system, setting up cells of revolution at other schools — his agent at Rugby, Philip Toynbee, thought Romilly possessed a "Napoleonic streak". Failing in this endeavour, he joined the International Brigade and went to fight in the Spanish Civil War; invalided home, he got a job as a News Chronicle stringer and again set off for Spain, this time taking Decca, who had fallen in love with the idea of him before she met



Honorable rebel... Jessica Mitford's home near the Berkeley campus in California put her at the heart of left-wing causes

him in the flesh. She laid a false trail for her family, who were distraught at her disappearance. Eventually, after Scotland Yard, the Foreign Office, and various British consulates had become involved in the saga, they were persuaded to board a Royal Navy destroyer in Bilbao which took them to St Jean de Luz. They were married by the British consul in Bayonne.

Back in London, they settled in Rotherhithe and joined the Bermondsey Labour Party. A daughter, Julia, died of pneumonia aged four months. Next, vaguely hoping that Romilly could make some money lecturing to women's clubs in the United States, they went to Washington, and then to Florida, where Romilly worked as a barman. When the Chamberlain government fell, and was replaced by the Churchill coalition, Romilly signed up with the Royal Canadian Air Force. After training he was posted back to Britain as a pilot officer.

In November 1941 Romilly was killed during a bombing raid on Hamburg. By then Decca had given birth to their second daughter, Constanca.

She found war work in Washington, and in 1943 married as her second husband Robert Treuhhaft, a calm and humorous left-wing Harvard lawyer. They joined the American Communist Party during the war and afterwards battled in Oakland, California — "Calif". Decca invariably called it — where, both of them being sociable characters, they became a centre and focus for radical politics. Her job in the classified department of the San Francisco Chronicle vanished after Federal Bureau of Investigation agents probed the couple's activities. She was placed on the US Attorney-General's subversives list and appeared before the California state senate "un-American activities" committee. It was the lack of a job, she and her husband asserted, which turned her to writing, and *Hons and Rebels*.

Their house, technically in industrial Oakland, was on the edge of the Berkeley campus of the University of California, and that particularly in the 1960s they were at the heart of every left-wing cause. Treuhhaft's law firm was the first that any West Coast radical in difficulties with the law, black or white, turned to for

defence. His quiet legal ingenuity, and Decca's instinctive opposition to authority, provided people in serious trouble with an unwavering support system they could not easily find elsewhere.

Decca told the history of her membership of the Communist Party in her second autobiographical work, *A Fine Old Conflict* (1977). Although like almost everything she wrote, the book was entertaining and shrewd, and although to some extent it was critical of the party, it dodged the central issue, which was why Decca and her fellow party members refused to recognise the nature of the murderous Soviet regime. Even after she left the party, following Khrushchev's indictment of Stalin in 1956, she continued to be a sympathiser.

Part of the answer, perhaps, is that being a communist was to some extent for Decca another Mitford tease. She was due to inherit a sixth of a family-owned Scottish island, Rock Samuich, but her father disinherited her after she announced that she proposed to hand over her share to the Communist Party. On American left-wing causes, such as civil rights, she was serious;

but communism was for her, as for others, an unexamined extension of her 1930s anti-fascism; and in any case, living in California, she was able to insulate herself from the realities of Soviet-dominated eastern Europe, and concentrate instead on the injustices of the United States. Argument was not an activity she enjoyed. She was less a communist than a natural anarchist. She gave the impression that the rules and conventions obeyed by others did not apply to her. She rarely arrived at an airport without a scheme for getting upgraded; from television companies or commissioning editors at magazines, with her blue Mitford eyes opening wide, she invariably contrived to extract better terms than anyone else would have dared to ask for.

Authority, wherever and however it showed itself, was a Decca target, and she had a lawyer husband who could help to spot the weaknesses in authority's case — always especially the Communist Party. She particularly enjoyed exposing rackets, as in the case of the "death industry". Her investigation of the profitable Famous Writers' School,

which ran a correspondence course, forced the school to file for bankruptcy after she revealed that the writers advertised as supervisors of the course had precious little to do with it.

America did not in the slightest change her. Her vocabulary and accent remained pure Mitford: "Do tell," she would say, eager for gossip. Almost every year she would return to England with her husband, and rent a London flat. One night she would be giving a party attended by, among others, unreconstructed members of the old left, and the next she would be dining with the Dukes and Duchesses of Devonshire at Chatsworth. Having her cake and eating it was a Decca speciality.

She always had a book on the stocks: *The Trial of Dr Spock* (1969), *Kind and Usual Punishment* (1974), *The American Prison Business* (1975), *Poison Penmanship*; *The Gentle Art of Muckraking* (1978), *Flaws of Philip, a memoir of Philip Toynbee* (1984). *Grace had an English Heart: A Life of Grace Darling* (1988), and *The American Way of Birth* (1992).

In later life, declining to

grow old gracefully, she became a sought-after lecturer on the university circuit, delighting and stirring up the students with her jokes and irreverence. Always liable to break into song at dinner-tables, specialising in numbers she had learned in the nursery and old left-wing ballads, in 1995, aged 77, she made her first single for Don't Quit Your Day Job Productions of San Francisco, advertised as featuring "Decca and the Deccas", and accompanied by a Tehirt for \$15.

One of the songs is *Grace Darling*, learned at her mother's knee:

*Twas on the Longstone Lighthouse,
There dwell an English maid,
Pure as the air around her,
Of danger ne'er afraid.*

Her daughter Constanca, her son Benjamin, born in 1947, and her husband survive her. Another son, Nicholas, died in an accident in 1955, aged 11.

Michael Davis
Jessica Lucy Mitford, author, born September 11, 1917; died July 23, 1996

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In later life, declining to

hours of it each week — perhaps the person who dared beat her! Words in some form dominated her every waking hour, whether it was writing, she researching or faxing. She was in fact contact with hundreds of people all over the world. She devoured every snippet and clipping any of us could lay hands on, and would fax by return bizarre "Calif" absurdities. One day last year a CD and a tape arrived — Decca and the Deccas had hit it big in San Francisco. What the locals made of this 70-something aristocratic woman and her motley crew was never revealed.

She died within three weeks of the discovery of her cancer, a condition that she and Debo described as "an absolute bugger". Maya Angelou had time to reach her bedside as she died. The sound of Maya singing *My Old Man's A Dastard* drifted out across the Oakland suburbs, as Decca slipped away.

Joe Snow

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Joe Snow

Outrage, iconoclasm — and treating people right

MET Decca Mitford in my late twenties and immediately fell for her iconoclasm and devilish humour. The wit and wicked swipes derived from more than a rebel's disavowal of family and background; she could not hear hypocrisy and could sniff out double standards like a police dog. When invited by the National Council of Civil Liberties to give a lecture in the 1960s, she asked how an organisation concerned with liberty could have no black employees.

Her socialism came from a gut instinct about treating people right rather than any familiarity with Marxist texts and she is celebrated among progressive Americans for that political commitment. There was her campaigning for trade union rights, her stance against racism, especially in the south — where, in the 1960s, she confronted the Ku Klux Klan — her condemnation of conditions in the American prison system (particularly death row) and her

resistance to McCarthyism. She was a wonderful, if demanding, companion; a great raconteur, planner of events, party-giver and party-goer. She couldn't suffer boredom or bore. When we were on holiday last summer on Cape Cod, I took her to a feminist poetry reading, about which she was rather snuffy but which she settled for, since the alternative was baseball. She slow handclapped the desultory nature of the proceedings, launching into *Why Are We Waiting* while Marge Percy shuffled her collected works.

She played fierce games of Boggle and Scrabble and spoke an English narrowed in 1930s Aristland. "What bliss," she would exclaim, on being given a boiled egg "how utterly ghastly," when she found it was hard in the middle. The great thing was that she laughed at herself when ribbed. She always seemed so permanent, superhuman and completely original.

Helena Kennedy

Willie McGee, a black lorry driver convicted of raping a white woman.

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Jonathan Steele

She WAS singing with Maya Angelou when I first set eyes on her. Decca's upper crust voice with its wonderful bass resonances wobbled forth a parody of cockney tones for Bernard Cribbins's *Right Said Fred* — a song about piano removal men that she never ceased to find uproariously funny. It was part of the mix that made her quite different from anyone else of her age or background. A communist belief lived out in capitalist California, with sorties to pink liberal Kentish Town, was the context in which we met her in the last decade. We were brought together by the parade to one of her journeys back to California. Someone had carved a slate tombstone for her dead dog. Dubbed "Packer Snow", I found myself trawling for bubble paper and working out how to squish the stone into her luggage.

For Decca every thought, every deed, led to another, and retrieved in her mind some earlier moment, most distantly related, that she would then retail as if it had happened that morning. She was in her sister Debo's words, "completely cerebrally never interested in the physical". I last saw her, oblivious to her surroundings, in a grimy breeze block room in a one-story motel on Massachusetts Route 28. She had everything she needed, her husband Bob, a bed, bathroom and a bath for her precious Boggle. She was a Boggle-holic playing

hours of it each week — perhaps the person who dared beat her! Words in some form dominated her every waking hour, whether it was writing, she researching or faxing. She was in fact contact with hundreds of people all over the world. She devoured every snippet and clipping any of us could lay hands on, and would fax by return bizarre "Calif" absurdities. One day last year a CD and a tape arrived — Decca and the Deccas had hit it big in San Francisco. What the locals made of this 70-something aristocratic woman and her motley crew was never revealed.

She died within three weeks of the discovery of her cancer, a condition that she and Debo described as "an absolute bugger". Maya Angelou had time to reach her bedside as she died. The sound of Maya singing *My Old Man's A Dastard* drifted out across the Oakland suburbs, as Decca slipped away.

Courtney Laws

His radical roots bore fruit in Brixton

CCOURTNEY Laws, a community leader in Brixton, London, for more than 30 years, has died after collapsing on his turf in Railton Road — Brixton's frontline — on Monday. He was 65. Among the awards he received for public service were the Order of Distinction, Jamaica, and the Order of the British Empire; but he also valued the affectionate titles bestowed on him by his people — blacks, old and young: the General, the Chief and Mas Laws.

He was born into the lower middle classes of colonial Jamaica in June 1931. His father was a clerk at the local market, a position of importance in the parish of St Thomas. It was a special place — a huge sugar plantation with a rich historical past; the home of the Maroons, runaway slaves who marked their terrain and signed a treaty with the authorities, ensuring freedom. Then there was the Morant Bay rebellion, led by Paul Bogle. These were huge moments in the island's history.



Laws... community action

Courtney Laws was a wide-eyed kid of seven when the sugar workers of St Thomas opened another historical account. In 1938 all of Jamaica, with St Thomas in the vanguard, challenged the poverty of colonialism and formed two major political parties to them: the Peoples National Party, with the National Workers Union; and the Jamaican Labour Party, with

the Bustamante Industrial Workers Union. Courtney Laws sipped from the cup of revolt, a heady mix of race and class.

The family moved to the parish of St Andrew where he attended Rollington school and Lincoln College. He received through the colonial education system a rigorous discipline in the three Rs, with a classical dimension reminiscent of Matthew Arnold.

He married Ruby Brown in 1956 and set sail for London, in that very year, now an emblem of colonial upheavals. Off the ship and straight to Esdale Villas, off Mostyn Road, hard core Brixton in the borough of Lambeth.

In those early days the new emigrants were received in the local community by tea and sympathy groups, led invariably by the vicar. The St John's Inter-Racial Club welcomed the Laws family, and Courtney at once marked his mark. A shop steward at the Peak Free's factory and an indefatigable organiser

within the racial club. Old St Thomas habits had come to root in Brixton, rich with the smells and sounds of the Caribbean.

Somerleyton and Geneva roads soon earned the sobriquet "Jamaica away from home", a mirror reflection of Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*. But the local council had different plans and embarked on the demolition of the Victorian terrace houses on both streets.

A great uncertainty reigned with the break-up of the community. Tenants who occupied the properties were being transferred hither and thither. They took their complaints to the St John's Inter-Racial Club. Courtney Laws rose to the occasion with his mate, the late Joe Hunt and Cecil Collier. The triumvirate formed the Somerleyton and Geneva Roads Association and fought for the rights of the tenants. That was in 1964 and from then Laws never looked back.

An after-school play group in the Sand Pit was his response to latchkey kids: a

youth club, another response to the boredom and waywardness of the first generation of young blacks.

Never a dabbler, Courtney, now immersed in social work, announced his shortcomings and set off to Leicester University to put them right: he graduated in 1967 with a diploma in social studies.

It was a time of black power. Martin Luther King dreamt, Malcolm X had sizzled in anger and the winds were blowing their rhetoric across the Atlantic. The General raised his head. Down Black and proud with a regal gait, he raised the banner of the Brixton Neighbourhood Community Association.

I knew him well by then. He attended all the protest meetings but held his tongue. Courtney was never a rhetorician. Quietly and systematically, with his wife Ruby, he developed an advice centre, and later the West Indian Senior Citizens Association, one of the realisations that the myth of the immigrants' return home was being transcended by regular processes

to the Norwood cemetery.

On a morning the residents of Railton and Mayall roads could set their clocks by Mr Laws' arrival at his office. Business arranged for the day, he would nip over to his friend, Leon, for a drink at the Mingles pub. Then with his hands clapped behind his back, *à la* House of Windsor, he stroiled down Railton Road along Coldharbour Lane chatting amiably as he went. He was the chief, he was the subject.

He had received dignities including the Queen Mother and Princess Zesmani, Nelson Mandela's daughter. But strangely, he did not receive an invitation to meet President Mandela on his recent visit. He took this snub in his stride, but it hurt him deeply. A gentleman to the end, he kept his peace. He is survived by his wife, three children and three grandchildren.

Dariusz Howes
Courtney Alexandre Henriques Laws, community leader, born June 16, 1931; died July 22, 1996

Letter

R J M Tolhurst writes: King Ludwig III of Bavaria was not dethroned by Bavarian communists in 1918 (*Duke Albrecht obituary*, July 12). Left-wing socialists, led by Kurt Eisner, headed a revolution which overthrew the monarchy on November 8, 1918. All the other German dynasties were also overthrown in that month of German defeat.

It was following Kurt Eisner's assassination on February 21, 1919, by a rightist, that local communists seized power. But their "soviet republic" was itself

overthrown in April by troops sent by the federal republican government in Berlin.

Birthdays

Sally Beauman, writer, 52; Dallas Bower, television pioneer, film director and writer, 85; Louise Brown, world's first test tube baby, 18; James Butler, sculptor, 65; Nicole Farhi, fashion designer, 50; Lady Goodhart, principal, Queen's College, London, 57; Prof William Niblett, educationist, 90; Margaret Puxon, bacteriologist and gynaecologist, 81; Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn, archaeologist, master, Jesus College, Cambridge, 59; Annie Ross, singer, 66.

Death Notices

COLLEGE, Anne (Ebenbach), passed away on 23 July 1996 at Cambridge Unit, after a long illness, aged 61. Deceased with other Reginald Mansel at Church of Transfiguration, 28 July 1996 at 10.00 am. Interment at the West London Crematorium at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. For Funeral Programme and more to H J Best & Co., 215 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1D 6EA, telephone 011 925 1170.

In Memoriam

GRANDEUR, Lorna, died peacefully 25th July 1996, in Cambridge Unit, after a long illness, aged 81. Deceased with other Reginald Mansel at Church of Transfiguration, 28 July 1996 at 10.00 am. Interment at the West London Crematorium at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. For Funeral Programme and more to H J Best & Co., 215 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1D 6EA, telephone 011 925 1170.

Memorial Services

JOHN PERTWEE A memorial service is to be held on August 1st at 12pm at St Paul's, 100 Strand, London WC2R 3JJ. A service will be held at 10.00 am, followed by a meal at the West London Crematorium at 11.00 am. Family flowers only. For Funeral Programme and more to H J Best & Co., 215 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1D 6EA, telephone 011 925 1170.

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Tomorrow: Yorkshire Water faces shareholders

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Allied drives £200m Carlsberg bargain

Lisa Buckingham
ALLIED Domecq is expected to sell its 50 per cent share of the Carlsberg-Tetley brewing operation for up to £200 million when the deal is concluded next week.

business is in its books at substantially more. The City has been talking down expectations of the deal and traders have suggested Allied would be willing to extricate itself at almost any price. It is understood, however, that Allied, under its new chairman Sir Christopher Hogg, has driven a harder bargain than anticipated and a statement on terms is expected next week.

brewing industry is dominated by two leading players. Only Whitbread, a small third in the game with about 12 per cent of the market, will be left in the big league.

Allied will retain some historic brands in the Carlsberg-Tetley stable, such as Benskins, which could in the future be used to brand fashionable pub outlets.

from the three-year-old Carlsberg-Tetley morass with anything like its head held high, the company's standing in the City is bound to rise in anticipation of more deals from Sir Christopher.

Notebook

No substitute for sound judgment



Edited by Alex Brummer

THE Bank of England cannot be accused of responding frivolously to the Barings debacle. Almost a year to the day after the Board of Banking Supervision exposed the profound weaknesses in the existing regulatory structures, it has moved to introduce critical reforms.

tum, and the CBI's on industrial production, are now pointing in the same direction — upwards. This ought to be a source of joy for the Government, which has had to wait until the fifth year of recovery for the feel-good factor. The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, was almost certainly over-anxious when he asserted his right to cut base rates by a quarter point to 5.75 per cent.

Bank spends £8m to avoid new Barings

Mark Miller

THE Bank of England yesterday unveiled an £8 million-a-year package of measures intended to boost its supervision and surveillance operations in the wake of the Barings investment bank collapse.

training; recruitment of people with specialist skills; more effective use of information technology and tighter links between the aims of supervision and the process by which it was carried out.

Yesterday the Bank said it would also set up a "quality assurance function", in line with recommendations in a Board of Banking Supervision report drawn up after the Barings affair.

Ex-power chief to take over as chairman



New face... Robert Malpas, a non-executive director of Eurotunnel, and the first chairman of the electricity generator, PowerGen, is taking over from Sir Alastair

Sir Alastair sees light at the end of the tunnel

Keith Harper Transport Editor

SO, we say farewell to Sir Alastair Morton. The man whose single-minded determination and abrasive approach has been the driving force behind the building of the Channel Tunnel is resigning as chairman of Eurotunnel.

Finding a successor was difficult. Nobody would take the job. Which is why the company has had to fall back on a 70-year-old, semi-retired business executive.

9,800 cars and coaches in one day — three times what it achieved on its first day. It has 43 per cent of the cross-channel traffic and business is mounting.

Michael Foot, the Bank's director of supervision, said that under the new regime Bank officials would carry out more "on site" visits. The aim would not be to be more "inquisitorial" but to ensure that they addressed real substance.

One problem has been in retaining and attracting people with the skills needed by the supervisory division. Yesterday Mr Davies said that the Bank would be flexible in rewarding existing staff or attracting outside experts, but that across-the-board pay increases were "not realistic in the public sector".

A spokesman for the Treasury said: "The Bank believes it can afford the increase [in supervisory costs] from within existing resources over the next two years because of savings elsewhere. The [cost] implications for later years will be addressed nearer the time."

Three the Old Lady missed

THE Bank of England is hanging on to its role as banking regulator, arguing not only that it is up to the job, but also that the role has synergies with its overall responsibilities for Britain's financial system, writes Mark Miller.

It is said to have strained relations between the Bank and the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, and between the Old Lady and Britain's big commercial banks which were "asked" to contribute to a Bank-organised whip-round for JMB.

Bank came under heavy fire for, variously, acting too early, too late or for the wrong reasons. The trio of scandals was completed in 1994 with the collapse of Barings, one of the oldest names in British merchant banking, with about £860 million worth of losses on derivatives trading run up in Singapore by one of its traders, Nick Leeson.

Suter succumbs to bid

Paul Murphy
SUTER, the mini-conglomerate run by David Abel, is expected to confirm this morning that it has succumbed to a £260 million takeover offer from Ascot Holdings, the former Control Securities group once run by disgraced financier Nazim Virani.

1979, valuing Mr Abel's 3 per cent stake at almost £8 million. Mr Dyer revamped Ascot, which as Control Securities was drawn into the Bank of Credit and Commerce International collapse four years ago. It has been slowly disposing of a ragbag of hotels and pubs since then, and carried out a £175 million restructuring 18 months ago. The last pub, was sold off to a management group in February for £30 million, leaving the company with net cash of around £20 million.

charges two years ago, eventually moving off to pursue other interests. Becoming a main board director of British Leyland by the age of 32, Mr Abel combined his job with heavy speculation in the stock market, and made a personal fortune in the 1970s.

The most important is the move to what the Bank calls a "more systematic model of risk assessment", under which it will seek to gain a better understanding of the risk associated with the various business of banks under its charge. This is an attempt to find a path between the extremes of a US-style inspection-based system — which was not durable enough to prevent Daiwa's rogue trader in New York — and the low-regulation full-disclosure approach of New Zealand.

The Bank's run of its new model in two institutions, one major bank and one smaller player, demonstrated some advantages to detailed risk assessment. For instance it can significantly increase knowledge of how much of a bank's capital can be exposed safely to overseas risk — such as Barings' dealings in Singapore. Presumably, a risk assessment of HSBC might, for example, find an unwise concentration of Pacific lending in the property sector.

However, there will still be significant gaps in the Bank's coverage. Because of the home country supervision rules, encapsulated in EU directives, German banks can carry out activities in London that are alien in Frankfurt. This is a grey area, still to be addressed satisfactorily.

Grow carefully

THE buoyant growth in retail sales in June is the latest in a series of indicators suggesting that the economy is taking off. Almost every authoritative survey, including those from the British Chambers of Commerce, 3is and the Retail Consor-

Pie in the sky

IT IS because Rupert Murdoch has been so adept at exploiting regulatory loopholes that he has been able to win such a dominant media position in the UK and other markets. By developing the Astra satellite as a non-domestic venture, for instance, he was able to skip around cross-ownership limits in Britain.

Anyone who believes that BSkyB will give the weaker cable operators a fair chance is living in cloud cuckoo land.

Market makers celebrate victory over stamp duty

Ian King

CITY market makers yesterday welcomed proposals from Chancellor Kenneth Clarke which will ensure that they continue to enjoy relief from stamp duty on share transactions.

duty on share transactions, despite Prime Minister John Major's pledge to eventually abolish the tax.

The new rules will not apply to small investors who will continue to pay stamp

The Stock Exchange has also agreed to SIB proposals aimed at a greater level of transparency in market trading. It will require all so-called "protected trades" — which allowed market makers to delay notification for 90 minutes, thereby allowing them to conceal their positions — to be made public at once. It means that the portion of share transactions which become public knowledge immediately after they have taken place will increase from 75 per cent to more than 85 per cent.

Table with columns: TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS, Australia 1.0650, Austria 15.74, Belgium 48.07, Canada 2.0785, Cyprus 0.8915, Denmark 8.6775, Finland 5.96, France 7.56, Germany 2.2400, Greece 359.00, Hong Kong 11.71, India 55.21, Ireland 0.9345, Israel 4.91, Italy 2.300, Malta 0.5335, Netherlands 2.5170, New Zealand 2.17, Norway 9.98, Portugal 231.50, Saudi Arabia 5.79, Singapore 2.15, South Africa 6.65, Spain 198.50, Sweden 10.0275, Switzerland 1.948, Turkey 124.264, USA 1.5180

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Racing

All clear for Hills and Swinburn

Graham Flock

WALTER SWINBURN was granted a licence to ride from August 11 by the Jockey Club yesterday, and the Disciplinary Committee reduced the suspension incurred by Michael Hills at Doncaster last week. Consequently, Hills will be able to partner Pentire in the King George Diamond Stakes at Ascot on Saturday.

Swinburn, who suffered extensive injuries in Hong Kong on February 11, has made a complete recovery, but the committee felt it prudent for him to wait six months following his accident before he resumed riding.

After a 40-minute hearing, Swinburn and his father gave a brief press conference at which the jockey read out a prepared statement. Swinburn was visibly nervous.

The Licensing Committee spent out to him that, having suffered brain damage, a subsequent fall would probably be far more serious than for a jockey who had not previously sustained brain damage.

Nevertheless, Swinburn said he was very pleased that his licence had been granted, "after what has been a long and trying time for both myself and my family. I accept the reasons for the delay. I had a very fair hearing from the Jockey Club and I have received enormous help from them."

He rides out at Newmarket during the intervening 17 days to become race-fit, he

will require private insurance. Under the official scheme, jockeys are covered for six months from the date on which their injuries were incurred.

Asked if he expected to ride at the first permitted opportunity, Swinburn replied: "Definitely. I can't wait to get back. To wait another three weeks is still going to be hard, you know, but I've always wanted to get back. Riding is my life, and it's been sorted out."

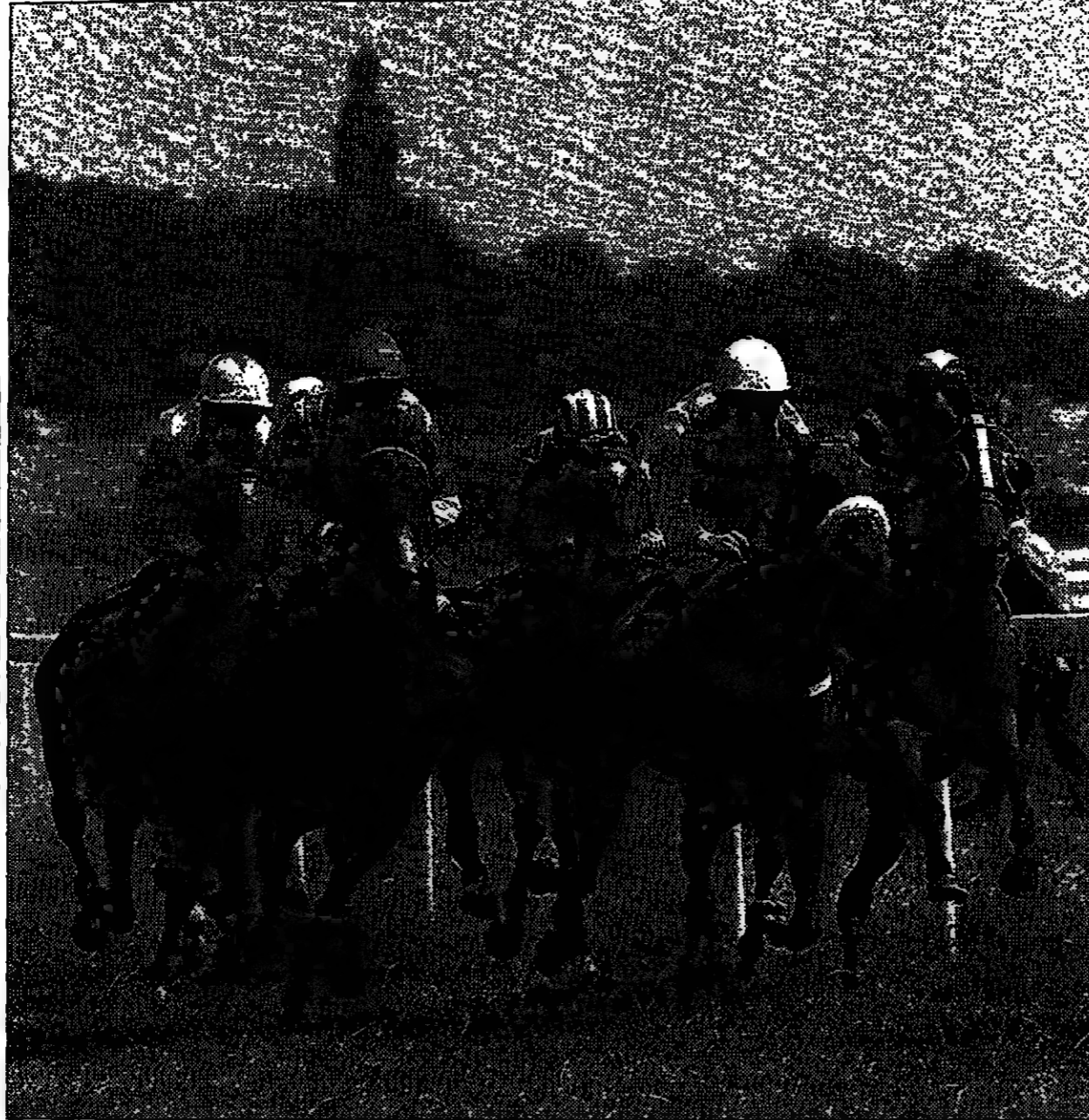
Michael Hills is relishing the prospect of riding Pentire at Ascot on Saturday. He incurred a three-day suspension for careless riding at Doncaster last week, and appealed to the Disciplinary Committee, whose members watched comprehensive video replays of the race aimed to reduce the penalty to two days.

Under Jockey Club rules, a two-day suspension offers much more flexibility and Hills will miss riding tomorrow and Monday.

"Now I just want to get out there and prove Pentire to be the best in normal circumstances, three days was not severe, but because it ruled me out of the King George, it was severe."

"On the day it definitely looked careless, but they didn't take into account the other horse's head carriage, how hard he was pulling, and how much trouble he was giving Kevin Darley."

"Yesterday Darley said what he said on the day. But the thing he changed was to emphasise that his horse was headstrong, and both he and



Leader of the pack... Great Bear (noseband) leads in yesterday's Be Hopeful Handicap at Bath. PHOTO: HUMBERTO BENEVENTO

the horse were unbalanced." Michael Roberts, who was standing by to take over on Pentire, will now switch to Newcastle to ride Brunston Abby, who will attempt to equal the post-war record of 21 wins by a mare. Mark Johnston's game sprinter

faces a strong field in the Beeswing Stakes. Yesterday the British Horseracing Board announced the 1997 fixture list. There are two fewer days with evening fixtures, and Sunday racing has been divided into four blocks.

"The off-course punter benefits from an increase in the number of afternoon fixtures," said Tristram Ricketts, chief executive of the BHB. "Racing remains very reliant on the punter's contribution via the levy and we will continue to work with the betting industry." Tom Kelly, representing the Betting Office Licences Association, said that the 1997 list was "an improvement as far as being more off-course punter friendly than its predecessors, but further improvements could be made."

Sandown with form guide

2.15 High Dancer 2.30 Yalta 2.35 Yearbook	4.00 Village King (oh) 4.05 Magic Mail 4.10 Chatterbox
<p>Drawn Mark High Dancer, 4. Decimus Makers. Ongoing Stand in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.</p>	

Chepstow evening card

6.30 General Moulder 6.35 Scudde Steps 7.35 Poppering	7.50 Malvern Lass 8.55 Shadow Lass 9.55 King Parrot
<p>Drawn High Moulder, 6. Decimus Makers. Ongoing Stand in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.</p>	

Catterick tonight

6.40 Corniche Guest 7.10 Theobald 7.40 Hossain	8.10 Iota 8.40 Bolin Jones 9.10 Champagne
<p>Drawn Low Corniche Guest, 6. Decimus Makers. Ongoing Stand in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.</p>	

Brighton runners and riders

2.20 Triple Team 2.25 Lino's Joy 2.30 He's Got Wings 2.35 He's Got Wings	4.45 Phoenix 4.50 Pearl Dream 4.55 Crystal Heights
<p>Drawn Low Triple Team, 4. Decimus Makers. Ongoing Stand in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.</p>	

Blinked today for the first time: BRIGHTON: 2.35

Indrapuri, Linda's Joy; 3.45 Possitive Artist; 4.20 Indrapuri, Uncle George; 4.55 Little Gent. CATTERICK: 6.40 Cavalry Girl, CHEPSTOW: 6.30 Spread The Word. SANDOWN: 5.10 Zahran.

2.35 KINGSTON BELLING HANDICAP (10) 215yds CL2070	1 2000 CORNBREAD (10) 215yds CL2070	2 2000 CORNBREAD (10) 215yds CL2070	3 2000 CORNBREAD (10) 215yds CL2070
4.20 KING OGDON CLAIMING STAKES (10) 200yds CL2071	1 2000 CORNBREAD (10) 215yds CL2070	2 2000 CORNBREAD (10) 215yds CL2070	3 2000 CORNBREAD (10) 215yds CL2070

'Too expensive' Larder to leave Keighley

Paul Fitzpatrick

PHIL LARDER, the England and Great Britain coach, is to leave Keighley at the end of the season after two highly successful years in charge at Cougar Park. He claims that the club can no longer afford him.

"I have been told that the club cannot afford to renew my contract and I am not being offered a new deal," Larder said.

"It is a very sad way to end any spell with a club but clearly I have to look to the future. My time with the Cougars has been very rewarding and I will do everything in my power to ensure that we finish this season in the best possible shape."

This unexpected development follows quickly on the arrival of Carl Metcalfe, a wealthy businessman who bought the club last week with the promise that funds would be available to buy players and improve facilities.

Larder, one of the most thorough and knowledgeable of coaches, is unlikely to be out of work for long. The forthcoming vacancy at Bradford would suit him, although the Bulls may be tempted to look again to Australia for a replacement for Brian Smith.

"I am ambitious as a coach to work with the top players and it would be better for me as an international coach to be able to see the best players in the game on a regular basis," Larder said.

After two seasons at Widnes, Larder replaced Peter Roe at Cougar Park in May 1994 and in his first season took the side to the Second

Division championship. But Keighley, to Larder's and the club's bitter disappointment, did not secure a place in Super League.

They finished runners-up to Salford in the Centenary Championship. They are chasing Salford again this season but have suffered horrendously with injuries and are currently fourth.

Last year Larder steered England to the World Cup final, where they were beaten by Australia, and he will be in charge of the Great Britain side to tour Papua New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand at the end of the current campaign.

Greg McCallum, the controller of referees, is to submit a report to the game's chief executive Maurice Lindsay after his investigation into Saturday's heated Super League clash between Warrington and Bradford.

Two brawls, damage estimated at £200,000 to a pitch-side television camera, and criticism of the referee's rulings by Warrington's coach John Dorahy will feature in McCallum's report.

"Just one player has been referred to the disciplinary committee, Richard Heston of Warrington, but after further consideration of the match video-recording I will be making a report to the chief executive," said McCallum.

Wakefield rugby union club have denied that Jonathan Griffiths, their former England Under-21 flanker, has joined the Super League club Paris St Germain.

Jonathan Griffiths, Wakefield's secretary, said there had been no contact with Paris. "Jonathan Griffiths is contracted to play for Wakefield," he added.

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SANDOWN BRIGHTON CHEPSTOW CATTERICK

Cricket

Hussain and Lewis forced to pull out

Mike Selvey at Lord's

MIKE ATHERTON and David Lloyd yesterday endured a day for which the job prospectus can hardly have prepared them. They were required to give evidence in the High Court and in the afternoon they learned that they would have to play the first Test against Pakistan without Chris Lewis and Nasser Hussain.

knuckle of his index finger. It is fine, he says, until he gets a very off-centre on the bat, and then it jars; the crack is still there. England have therefore lost two of the more successful batsmen from the recent series against India, with Hussain having apparently solved the trouble-spot at No. 3 by scoring two centuries in three matches and Lewis running hard and taking on successfully the role of strike bowler.

down, is the only specialist in the side who has made a Test century at Lord's (Jack Russell, of course, did so against India last month) and he can point to an exemplary record on the ground of 819 runs at an average of 58.5. There is an element of risk in the England side with only five front-line batsmen and an attack with only 24 caps among them, but then there is also a spirit of adventure. An alternative would have been to play a specialist batsman as security in the skirmishing at the start of a series and on a ground where England's recent record is not good. But there is no evidence to support the notion that the extra batsman has performed even adequately in the past, and at least there is variety in the attack, particularly with a brace of left-arm pace bowlers, possibly a unique occurrence in England's sides.

total of our own on the board might be a bit more difficult. Lying in wait is not only the pace of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis but also the leg-spin of Mushtaq Ahmed, who was deemed to have out-bowled Shane Warne in Australia last winter; and Pakistan scores over India in some quality back-up. Although the tourists' bowling does not worry Atherton unduly after the questions posed by Srinath and Prasad earlier in the summer, it is nevertheless a formidable prospect. If England are to compete they need to bat as a team. With runs on the board, the bowlers can have a tilt at a Pakistan batting lineup that is full of quality but perhaps lacks the influence of one consistently dominant player. England can survive, win even, but they must play to the limit to do so.

Pakistan's improbable pair of biffers prepare for battle with Cork

Paul Weaver

BEST cricket has probably never seen anything like Pakistan's opening pair Anwar and Sohail as they set out to take their business as if in the expiring years of a Sunday league blitz. Both these left-handers have gone down with Jayasuriya Fever.

however, he and Sohail are one. Anwar bats as if to emulate his boyhood hero Viv Richards, and with three centuries already against the counties leads the first-class averages with 99. Yet Anwar made his Test debut with a king pile against West Indies in Faisalabad in 1990 and had to wait three years for another chance. "It was better than scoring six and one - it got my name in the record books," he says now.

A side last winter and started this tour with 99 and 51 against Northants and further impressive strokeplay against Kent. Saqlain Mushtaq, only 19, is already considered among the world's leading batsmen. He took 53 wickets in his first season in 1994-95 and started his tour of Australia last winter with five for 39 against Western Australia. Shabid Nazir, right-arm fast-medium, impressed his opponents when he took six wickets in his first Test against England at Trent in 1994-95 and started his tour of Australia last winter with five for 39 against Western Australia.

Ata-ur-Rehman became the eighth-youngest Test player in 1992, at barely 17, and looks likely to play today in preference to Akram after Wasim Akram's hint that he will stick to a three-seamer policy.



Down and out... the injured Nasser Hussain (squatting) and Chris Lewis (sitting) are consoled by the England physiotherapist Wayne Morton.

Championship Yorks v Somerset

Reward at last for bowlers

Ian Geldard at Scarborough

MOST of the chat at North Marine Road yesterday was about Yorkshire's decision to take the grounds at Middlesbrough, Sheffield, Bradford and Harrogate off their fixture list. They will play all their cricket at Headingley except for a maximum of two championship and Sunday games here at the end of the season. This ground has been a graveyard for bowlers for years and Yorkshire, who started yesterday 15 points clear at the top of the table, cannot afford to lose more draw. It was an odd-looking pitch but remained reasonably kind to the batsmen, and there were long periods, notably when Keith Parsons and Richard Haden were compiling a stand of 122 in 98 overs, when David Byas must have regretted his decision to field. But Yorkshire these days are game batlers and Peter Hartley, Darren Gough and Chris Silverwood came up with a brace of vital catches. Mark Lathwell dominated an opening stand of 86 with Peter Bowler, but Hartley, who once said pitches here should be dug up and tossed into the North Sea, found enough movement to beat both batsmen and gain 15w decisions just after lunch. Hartley should have had a third wicket but the wicket-keeper Richard Blakley dropped a chance offered by Hartley on 18. In the previous over Parsons, then five, had been missed by Craig White at first slip off Silverwood. Both batsmen went on to patient half-centuries. Haden made 54 from 146 balls before edging Silverwood to second slip, starting a spell which brought the 21-year-old seamer four wickets for 16 runs in 33 balls. Silverwood's persistence made it a good day for Yorkshire, with Somerset 308 all out. David Ripley, the 29-year-old wicketkeeper recalled by Northamptonshire because of Russell Warren's broken thumb, took 71 not out in 94 hours against Worcestershire at Kidderminster yesterday. The visitors finished 49-2 for nine having been 145 for eight.

Soccer Martyn pledges future to Leeds

Ian Ross and Russell Thomas

THE best-laid plans of Everton's manager Joe Royle were unexpectedly undone yesterday when the Crystal Palace goalkeeper Nigel Martyn agreed to join Leeds. At the time early yesterday afternoon that Martyn was expected on Merseyside to complete his move, he was in fact at Elland Road pledging his future to Leeds. Everton had confidently expected to unveil him at a lunchtime press conference today, having agreed a £2.2 million fee on Monday and received verbal assurances from the goalkeeper. But yesterday Martyn, 29, phoned Everton to say he was interrupting his journey to meet the Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson. Only 24 hours after reluctantly agreeing to sell Gary McAllister to Coventry for £3 million, Wilkinson had contacted Palace to seek permission to meet Martyn. Later, as a training ground, Martyn entered Elland Road, emerging a couple of hours later having agreed to sign a four-year contract. The first Everton knew of the decision was yesterday evening when Leeds announced a press conference for that morning. McAllister was paraded at Highbury Road, with club planning to follow their club-record signing with a major foreign player before the start of the season. Their manager Ron Atkinson said: "Signing a world-recognised star like McAllister should help us bring in the one other quality signing I'm looking for. We had a good look at who was available during Euro 96 and it could be that our next arrival comes from the Continent." McAllister, who has signed a four-year contract at Coventry worth a reputed \$3 million, said: "I haven't come to Highbury Road to scratch around at the bottom of the Premiership. If we start the season well and are aiming at the halfway mark at Christmas we could be pushing for a place in Europe, which is a realistic target."

England's coach Glenn Hoddle has appointed the former international winger Peter Taylor as the first full-time manager of the England Under-21 team. As well as being a former Tottenham team-mate, Taylor, 43, was coach to the Football League representative sides managed by Hoddle.

Yesterday's results

Badminton Men's singles First round: D. Hall (GB) vs R. Mitchell (Ind) 15-12, 15-10, 15-10; K. Lee (Kor) vs A. Kaur (Ind) 15-10, 15-10; M. Kwon (Kor) vs M. Kwon (Kor) 15-10, 15-10. Women's singles First round: M. H. J. Janssen (Ned) vs M. H. Janssen (Ned) 15-10, 15-10; S. Janssen (Ned) vs S. Janssen (Ned) 15-10, 15-10; D. Janssen (Ned) vs D. Janssen (Ned) 15-10, 15-10. Basketball Men's preliminary round Group B: Yugoslavia 116, S. Korea 85. Cycling Men's team time trial First round: F. Rousseau (Fr) 1:02:17.2; E. Hartwell (GB) 1:02:34.0; J. Timmermans (Bel) 1:02:50.0; J. Timmermans (Bel) 1:03:06.0; J. Timmermans (Bel) 1:03:22.0; J. Timmermans (Bel) 1:03:38.0; J. Timmermans (Bel) 1:03:54.0; J. Timmermans (Bel) 1:04:10.0; J. Timmermans (Bel) 1:04:26.0; J. Timmermans (Bel) 1:04:42.0; J. Timmermans (Bel) 1:04:58.0; J. Timmermans (Bel) 1:05:14.0; J. Timmermans (Bel) 1:05:30.0; J. Timmermans (Bel) 1:05:46.0; J. Timmermans (Bel) 1:06:02.0; J. Timmermans (Bel) 1:06:18.0; J. 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OLYMPIC GAMES



Obree and out... the pursuit is over for the Scot MICHAEL STEELE

Obree lost for power and glory

Cycling

Stephen Bierley

FOUR years ago on the outskirts of Barcelona Britain's Chris Boardman, riding a bike as thin as an After Eight mint, triumphed in the men's individual pursuit. Yesterday was to have been the start of Graeme Obree's own golden pursuit but before midday at Stone Park his Olympic challenge was sadly over.

Obree had been one of Britain's chief hopes for an Olympic gold but a virus, contracted in June, took its toll. On Atlanta's outdoor track, so hot that the wooden boards seemed in danger of turning of tinder, he simply faded away.

He had desperately hoped to catch fire himself but was already partly demoralised before he set foot on the pedals. Few, least of all he, had expected this track to be so fast. But first France's Philippe Ermenegildo broke Boardman's Olympic record, set in Barcelona, and then Italy's Andre Collinelli smashed Obree's world record of 4:20.894 by more than a second. Collinelli, beaten by Obree for the world pursuit title in Bogota last year, was riding immediately before the Scot and his time drove deep into Obree's scared psyche.

"I was hoping for something to be there which just wasn't," said Obree afterwards. "I felt like a lamb going to the slaughter" — words which he used to describe his performance in the first seven laps he was on qualifying pace but thereafter his form sagged as the drive in his legs disappeared.

From the first round of this event the eight quickest go through to the quarter-finals. Obree was looking for around 4:27. His 4:34.297 left him stranded in 11th, almost four seconds short of qualification. But this was a shadow of the real Obree.

The virus had brought on respiratory problems which had eventually affected his whole body. He lost nearly four weeks' prime training during the summer and, although he claims to be completely well now, the residual effects of the virus were obvious. Blood tests at the weekend showed his white cell count well below normal.

"That loss of training was absolutely crucial," said Obree, who now plans to ride next week in the road time-trial with Boardman. He might be better advised to give it a miss.

His career has never run true and smooth. He set the world hour record three years ago, since beaten, on a bike that cost less than £100 and famously included parts from a washing machine. He also adopted a thoroughly unorthodox riding position and was disqualified from the 1994 world championships. Nobody, however, disputes the 30-year-old's talent; he has two world titles (1993 and 1995) to prove it.

Leaning on a non-racing bicycle but still wearing his clear plastic riding goggles, he was sanguine about yesterday's performance. "I suppose it was not unexpected. I had been four or so seconds down in my training anyway but he just hoped to do enough to qualify. It didn't happen." Even the start had seen Obree less than his usual composed self. He had to wave away an NBC cameraman who was too close and prevented him seeing the countdown for the split start. He then wobbled at the first corner when his wheel kicked. "But these things didn't affect me at all," he said. "I just didn't have the basic speed."

Today Yvonne McGregor has the chance in the women's individual track pursuit to make up for the disappointment. Boardman's gold medal in Barcelona was Britain's first for cycling since 1920. We must hope not to wait as long again.



Going through the motions... Graeme Obree, having seen his world pursuit record taken, found his strength sapped by a virus and failed to reach the quarter-finals KEVIN LAMARQUE

Stubborn McGregor inspired by Burton's Personal Best

Cycling

William Fotheringham

THE late Beryl Burton, who dominated British women's cycling for a generation, had two great regrets. She never competed at the Olympics, as women's cycling events began only in 1984 after her best days were over, and she never took the coveted world hour track record despite two attempts.

Yorkshirewoman Yvonne McGregor, The 34-year-old already holds the world hour record, and she will have two good chances of gaining an Olympic medal. In the track pursuit — the event Burton made her own at world championship level for 15 years — and in the individual road time-trial, the discipline that Burton dominated for 30 years in Britain.

McGregor has never made a secret of the inspiration she gained when she read Burton's autobiography Personal Best shortly after taking to two wheels when an Achilles injury put paid to her fell-running and triathlon career.

hour record at the Manchester Velodrome last year. The unpaired hour — something of a British speciality in recent years thanks to Chris Boardman and Graeme Obree — is one of cycling's supreme tests of willpower and strength. In a velodrome there is no opportunity to relax for a second as there is in a road time-trial.

That McGregor's distance of 47.411 kilometres withstood an assault from France's Jeannie Longo last autumn is further testimony, and Longo, the world time-trial champion, could not look gold in last Sunday's road race, had the advantage of altitude when she attempted to beat McGregor's record, set at sea level.

As a member of the North Wirral Velo-Kodak elite team set up by Boardman to bring along Olympic hopefuls after his Barcelona pursuit gold, McGregor follows a programme — based on British domestic time-trials and track events — which is similar to that followed by Boardman prior to his 1992 triumph. Indeed, her assault on Atlanta is being masterminded by Peter Keen, the Eastbourne sports scientist who was behind Boardman's Olympic title and his 1994 Tour de France prologue win.

Racing is not enough to prepare for Atlanta's heat and humidity so McGregor trained on a stationary bike in the bathroom with the central heating on and the shower running. Last autumn she and Boardman could be seen on the track in Manchester being tested by breaking point.

Keen's and Boardman's expertise has failed to alter one imponderable factor: the ill-luck that has led to McGregor having four major accidents in the past three years, with a broken shoulder, collar-bone and cheekbone last year alone. She has learned to be wryly philosophical about the fact that if a black cat crosses the road it tends to run into her front wheel.

Raggatt and Carr steal the early thunder for Britain

Sailing

Bob Fisher

A THUNDERSTORM centred near Savannah first delayed most of the racing and then set severe technical problems with some massive wind shifts.

After two days ashore the 470 sailors finally began their 11-race series. The surprise for Britain was that it was Bethan Raggatt and Sue Carr

in the women's event who made a grander entrance than the highly fancied men, John Merricks and Ian Walker. While the men were languishing in mid-fleet at half-way after an indifferent start the British women were lying second in their race to the Ukrainian pair.

Merricks and Walker did well to pull back through the fleet to 15th at the finish — and might have been somewhat surprised that the pair who had got there first were Jodi Calafat and Francisco Sanchez of Spain, the Olympic champions, whose performance of late has been anything but champion.

Raggatt and Carr prefer the fresher winds and, as those out on their course began to die, they were passed by the United States, Japan and the Olympic champions, Theresa Zabell of Spain. The Britons ended in fifth place.

Most of the early excitement came with the finish of the men's sailboards. Nikolaos Kakiamanakis of Greece, the series leader after two races, led almost all the way round but Aaron McIntosh of New Zealand had made up a lot of ground after being fifth at the first mark. McIntosh got ahead just before the final buoy and went on to take the winner's gun.

In the Star class Colin Booth of Australia posted his third successive victory. The American Nick Adams on held his Laser after a collision in the class's second race when he tacked into the path of the Australian boat, which had right of way, rounding a mark. He has applied to use one of the stock spares.

Irish call for release of Smith's drug-test result

Swimming

David Hopps

IRELAND's team officials are pressing the Olympic authorities to release the result of a drug test on the gold medalist Michelle Smith to end continuing speculation over her remarkable performances in Atlanta.

Irish team officials said they wanted the result of the compulsory test, taken after her 400 metres individual medley win last Saturday. Smith followed her unexpected triumph with a 400m freestyle gold two days later.

Normally the International Olympic Committee would

not be required to inform countries of a negative test. Urine samples taken for drug analysis are only numbered, not named. Testers link up the sample with an athlete only if it is positive.

But Ireland's medical chief Joseph Cummins said: "We have asked them for the result so that we can release it."

"They [the results] are meant to be out within 24 hours. There has been such a discussion about it. We want to know what the result is."

Smith's startling breakthrough received timely support yesterday from Samuel Pries, president of Fina, the international swimming federation.

"When I saw her in Florida earlier this month I predicted

she would be the star of the Games," Pries said. "People suspect her vastly improved times because she is a woman, and 35 years old, but who can say for certain at what age development begins?"

Look at Sergei Bubka. Until he became a world-class pole-vaulter nobody realised he could run 10.3sec for the 100m."

Sarah Hardcastle, who won silver and bronze at Los Angeles in 1984, became Britain's first woman to reach a final for 12 years when she qualified for tonight's 800m freestyle in 8:37.54.

"At 27 I've just finished in the top eight," she said last night. "For a small country like Britain, which doesn't provide much support, that's an achievement."

Okesola has to keep up with the rush of Jones

Boxing

Diary

FOLA OKESOLA carries Britain's last hope of ring success when he makes his Olympic debut at the Alexander Memorial Coliseum today.

It is left to the Greenwoborn fighter of Nigerian parents to overcome the American Nate Jones to sustain British interest after the two-man team was reduced by half with the Liverpool featherweight David Burke's elimination on Monday.

Okesola is short on experience, having boxed for fewer than three years. But, unlike many American heavyweight Olympians, Chicago's Jones is not a big puncher or considered highly talented. So the Briton can go into the 91kg bout with some confidence.

The Americans have so far started fights at a high pace to pick up the points early while they are fresh.

It would be wise for Okesola to keep out of range in the opening round but, whatever he tries, it will be difficult to unseat an American heavyweight on home soil.

Gold medal for awkwardness

Diary

Atlanta 1996

EVERYTHING in the United States is bigger than in little old Blighty — even the jobswords. One British journalist took a cab 35 miles to the beach volleyball and tried to get out at the media entrance. "Don't get out of the car," said the uniformed security man. "It's OK I'll press," said the back. "I don't care. You can't go in unless you arrive on the official transport, buddy. You're going to have to go back to town and get a bus." He would not be shifted until a moment of inspiration hit our man.

"What if I was in an official vehicle other than the bus?" he parried. "I guess I would let you in," said the guard. So the back went round the corner, sat in the back seat of an NBC van, persuaded the driver to take him to the entrance and got in without a murmur.

pressed that he was riding the underground. Mother Teresa would do that."

THE Cuban delegation have found a way of sticking two fingers up at a restaurant which has encouraged locals to help if Cuban competitors wish to defect. The Mamba Cubanos put up a sign saying customers must help to protect defecting Cubans. No Cubans have defected since the Games began but a Cuban security guard got the last laugh on the owner: "I loved it so much I stole your menu," he wrote in the guest book.

THE battle of Olympic cheerleaders is well underway with the early lead taken by Brazil, who have a star member called Bola 7. Silver medalists in the team contest are Mitsuko Kasahara and Naotohshi Yamada. The latter has cheered since 1964 and written a song for these Games entitled Your Smile is like a Gold Medal. Mitsuko even has business cards with her designated title: International Olympic Assistant Cheerleader.

MONGOLIA's team have found a novel transport problem. They are reportedly taking a golf cart every night from the security guards at the Olympic Village and using it to drive into town to various nightspots.

John Duncan

Cricket

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July 25 1996

OLYMPIC GAMES

The Dome captivated by vaulting ambition

Gymnastics

Richard Williams

KERRI STRUG was carried from the podium with a bandage around her ankle and a gold medal round her neck after a moment of heart-stopping heroism had provided the climax to the United States team's victory in the women's team gymnastics event on Tuesday evening. Although the splash of drama eventually turned out to be not quite what it had seemed, nevertheless Strug, one of the less heralded members of the team of springboarded midgets in whom the dreams of suburban America are incarnated, gave us a lesson in courage and commitment that may not be surpassed in these Games. Strug, all 18 years, 4ft 9in and 6st 3lb of her, was the last member of her team to face the vault, the final piece of apparatus, Dominique Mocanu, the 14-year-old darling of the team, had just landed on her backside in both her attempts, giving the team their first seriously poor marks and threatening a collective heart attack for the 32,048 spectators in the Georgia Dome. Starting the evening in second place behind the Russians after Sunday's compulsory session, the United States had quickly taken the lead and the progress of Strug, Mochanu, Shannon Miller, Dominique Dawes, Jaycie Phelps, Amy Chow and Amanda Borden around the apparatus had already turned into a delirious lap of honour. It was one of those nights when only the United States team seemed to exist in full colour, their star-spangled progress around the floor followed by all eyes in the packed Dome and by a posse of cameramen intent on capturing every hug, every tear. Maximising the psychological advantage, their coaches greeted her effort as if it were a masterpiece. The other three teams in the final session — the Russians, the Romanians and the Ukrainians — drifted around apparatus like ghosts, their faces drained of spirit and hope. But so critical is the scoring in gymnastics that as Strug stood on the runway, focusing herself and pushing the images of Mocanu's tumbles

out of her mind, the gold medal suddenly seemed to depend on her alone. A deep breath. A sprint. A running handstand and a leap from the springboard into a one-and-a-half twisting Yurchenko vault. And, this time, a landing which brought her too to earth. As she rose, wincing with pain and shaking her left leg, she looked at the scoreboard, which showed her a 9.1 and potential catastrophe. She had heard something snap, she said later. "It hurt a lot." Later it was determined that she had suffered a third-degree lateral sprain of the left ankle. You get two goes at the vault, and only the better one counts. If Strug was in any doubt about how to proceed, Bela Karolyi was there to prompt her. Karolyi, her personal coach, was standing behind the boards, looking anxiously at the injured left ankle. The former Romania team coach, he is a controversial figure often attacked for his draconian methods with young gymnasts. But soft hearts don't win gold medals and now there was only one thought in his head. As recounted by him afterwards, the exchange between them could have been scripted by Angela Brazil. "We got to go one more time," Karolyi shouted. "Do I have to do this again?" "Can you?" "I don't know yet. I will do it. I will, I will." She did. She said a prayer and again she sprinted, sprang, flipped and landed — this time square on both feet, although she quickly pulled the left one up and held the landing pose on her right foot only, grimacing with the pain. Then she tried to hop away, but collapsed on the mat. The judges gave her 9.712. As it turned out, the United States would have won without it. But she had had no way of knowing that when she turned and ran in to face the pain of the last vault. As far as she was aware, the destiny of six other girls depended on it. If you came to the Olympics to see pure grit, here it was. Though all gold medals are equal, Strug's will always have a slightly different glow. But if you were Bela Karolyi, what would you have told her when she came limping back down the runway after that first vault?



Landing on her feet... the injured American Kerri Strug gets a lift from her coach Bela Karolyi after her bravery on the vault. PHOTOGRAPH: AMY SANCETTA

Britain fail to rally

Eventing

Jessica Fahey

BRITAIN'S three-day event team of Ian Stark, William Fox-Pitt, Karen Dixon and Gary Parsonage were unable to make up for Tuesday's disappointing cross-country and finished in fifth place with 312.90 points. Only Dixon managed a clear round in yesterday's show-jumping section. Australia took their third eventing gold medal and retained their title with 203.85, the United States took silver with 261.10 and New Zealand bronze with 268.55. Australia's Wendy Schaeffer, riding with a broken leg held together by pressure pads and screws, produced the outstanding performance yesterday with a clear round. As the three best scores from each four-rider team count for the score, her team-mate Gillian Rolton was able to sit out this section, she had completed the cross-country through "sheer bloody-mindedness" after breaking her collar-bone and two ribs in a fall. "I was riding one-handed most of the way around," she said. Schaeffer, the 21-year-old Olympic debutant who broke her leg in a fall in May, finished with the best overall individual score after a clear round on her 16-year-old gelding Sunburst. In previous Olympics that would have earned her an individual gold, but in Atlanta the two events have been separated. Andrew Hoy, in his fourth Games, and Phillip Dutton both knocked down two fences, but Australia were so far ahead after the dressage and cross-country that nothing was likely to deny them the title. The US's husband and wife pair, David and Karen O'Connor, produced clear rounds within the time limit to secure silver despite three mistakes and a 1.50 time penalty by the two-time Olympic team gold medalist Bruce Davidson. Ireland, who had moved up from 11th to fifth after the cross-country phase, were eliminated. The final veterinary inspection deemed two of their horses unfit because of cuts and gashes sustained on the course, though neither was lame. Irish officials decided to withdraw the horses rather than present them for a reassessment. Of the 63 horses and riders who started the dressage, only 28 were left in the show-jumping, and the teams in contention for medals competed with three riders because one retired after the gruelling cross-country.

Today in Atlanta

Badminton Women's and men's doubles, men's singles 17-18. Baseball Nicaragua v Holland (m), Italy v Australia (m), US v Japan (m). Basketball Italy v Russia (w), US v Zaire (w), Korea v Ukraine (w), Cuba v Australia (w), Brazil v Japan (w), Canada v China (w). Beach volleyball Women's and men's prelims. Baseball Move praams. Cycling Track, women's and men's and pursuit qualifying and semi-final, women's sprint, men's sprint, women's and men's sprint repechage, men's individual pursuit final. Baseball Three-day individual speed and endurance. Football Women's and men's team football. Gymnastics Women's and men's team final. Handball Korea v South Africa (m), Spain v Great Britain (w), Holland v Germany (w), Malaysia v Great Britain (m), Holland v Australia (m), Australia v Korea (w), US v Argentina (w). Judo Women's and men's half-lightweight. Rowing Semi-finals. Baseball Men's Final, women's Europe, men's and women's 470. Laser, Star. Shooting Men's 50m rifle prone, men's and women's 25m rapid-fire pistol, men's and women's 10m running target. Soccer Brazil v Germany (w), Korea v Italy (m), Nigeria v Japan (w), US v China (w), Brazil v Nigeria (m), Brazil v Germany (w), Japan v Nigeria (m). Soccer Women's 200 back final, women's 500 free final, men's 50 men's 100 free prelims, women's 200 back prelim, men's 200 medley final.

The best of the rest

Hockey

Pat Rowley

THE Great Britain women's team came wonderfully to life, playing far above their previous performances to defeat the United States 1-0 with a smartly taken goal by Scotland's Rhona Simpson. It was a performance that suddenly rekindled expectation. Britain could not have been fancied to win against a side who had beaten the South Korean team that thrashed Britain 5-0, but in this climate fluctuations of form are probably inevitable. The United States, despite their unimpressive support and full-time training, were made to look legless, but then Britain had had the previous day off while the Americans had contested a closely fought game with Korea. Yet it was exhilarating to see Britain playing so much of a match in their opponents' half, especially after their

Touts

Paul Majendie

SOME 50 ticket touts from Atlanta have flown into Britain in search of the gold that Britain's competitors have proved unable to strike. And they are making a better fist of it, up to \$1,000 a day. Equipped initially with a fistful of dollars and a scattergun sales pitch, they have muscled in on the turf of this hustlers' paradise. The public want tickets, everyone from Olympic sponsors and cash-strapped sports delegations are ready to sell them on the sly, and the fast-talking middleman is in business. Lawfully the scope is only slightly greater than in Britain, where tickets may no longer be sold on even at face value. Atlanta police can arrest anyone for selling tickets for more than \$3 over face value. But it is not a priority for a force battling traffic gridlock and potential terror-

Rowing

Christopher Dodd

THE good news is that the British lightweight double scullers and four reached tomorrow's semi-finals in repechage at Lake Lanier, correcting their mistakes of the preliminary heats. The bad news is that both of Britain's eights have been relegated to B finals for places 7-12 on Sunday. The women's sixth place in a repechage in which the first four qualified for the final was a sad end to a good medal prospect. Only six weeks ago at the Olympic qualifying regatta in Lucerne they lowered the course record set a week before by the United States crew, who here were the race winners. Garry Herbert, the cox who famously shed tears of joy on the podium after steering the Searle brothers to victory in Barcelona, gave his all only to see the men's eight edged out of second place, and qualifica-

Hockey

Pat Rowley

Though both teams displayed more gusto than talent, they provided quite a spectacle. Britain showed particular improvement in midfield, where Mandy Davies received better support, especially from Pauline Robertson. The strikers, benefitting from a good service, took the chance to express themselves. With better co-ordination and corner drills, Britain would have won by more than a single goal. In the first half Mandy Nicholls shot across goal, Davies shot over and, in one attack, Tina Cullen and Jane Sixsmith both let fly with reverse sweeps before Simpson took two vain jabs at a ball running away from her. The goal came in the 51st minute. Nicholls centred flat from near the right corner, Davies and Simpson met the ball with reverse stick angled to make a cunning deflection past Patti Shee. It was the promising showwoman's 14th goal since she established herself in the team 25 matches ago.

Hockey

Paul Majendie

ist threats. "It is nuisance crime, like loud music," said a police spokesman. "But we want to support the organisers and make people realise they cannot make a profit out of the Games like this." There have been 18 arrests. They have not deterred the Anglo-American Scalpers Association down on Peachtree Street. Jim Damon, a local delivering the quickfire, side-of-the-mouth patter of a Damon Runyon gangster, clinched a deal with an African Olympic official clutching a briefcase bulging with tickets. In 20 minutes he made \$3,000 on a batch of Dream Team tickets. Don Gibbons, from London, goes into a huddle with the man out of Africa and another fistful of dollars changes hands. "You can do the business," he said, "but there are too many touts around. The locals tried to bully us but we wouldn't stand for it." There are two many tickets, too. The organisers say they have sold 8.4 million out of 11 million. — Reuser

Hockey

Christopher Dodd

tion by Russia by a fifth of a second, Canada won. Herbert said: "It was real blood-and-guts stuff. I really thought we had done enough but it just wasn't to be." Today Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent have drawn the easier of the coxless pairs semi-finals in their campaign for their second and Redgrave's fourth Olympic gold. The Australia and France pairs who qualified with the British from preliminary heats are in the other semi-final, together with two of the three repechage winners. The fastest repechage winners, the United States, are in Redgrave and Pinsent's semi. The coxless four of Rupert Obholzer, Jonny and Greg Searle and Tim Foster have the repechage winners Germany in their semi-final, with the world champions Italy and the Olympic champions Australia in the other half. Peter Haining and Guin Batten have tough draws in their single-sculls events. Kate MacKenzie and Philippa Cross race in the semi-final of the coxless pairs.

ALFA 155 advertisement. Features a black and white image of an Alfa Romeo 155 sedan. Text includes: 'ON YOUR MARKS. ALFA 155. THE NEW 1.8 TWIN SPARK 16V 140BHP FROM £15,580 (ON THE ROAD). GET SET. CALL 0800 718 000 FOR YOUR NEAREST DEALER. GO.' and 'ALFA 155. GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE AND RED.' There is also a small '2-YEAR WARRANTY' badge in the bottom right corner.

All clear for Hills and Swinburn, page 12
Golden boy crashes out, page 14

Hussain and Lewis miss Test, page 13
Atlanta finds its first star, page 15

SportsGuardian

Olympian answer to Major's big idea

Palmer scathing after striking silver on a shoestring

David Hopps in Atlanta

PAUL PALMER'S elation at becoming Britain's first medallist here will dwindle the moment he arrives back in England. It is then that he will have to contemplate the loss of the coach who has guided him since childhood.

On the day John Major outlined his vision for the future, there could be few greater indictments of Britain's muddled search for sporting excellence than the financial pressures that threaten to end Palmer's association with his coach, Ian Turner, just as it has reached fruition.

Despite his euphoria at taking silver in the Olympic 400 metres freestyle, Palmer launched a stinging attack. "We have been second-class citizens and if we had the money I am sure we'd be able to turn silvers into gold medals. The rest of the world have been paying their athletes for 20 years. I am still living at home because I cannot afford to move out."

It was in the restless, insecure moments before the final that Palmer's relationship with Turner was underlined. "Sit with me for a while," he said. "Give me some company." And so they considered once more the race which they had chewed over a hundred times: stay above 1min 53sec for the first 200, set the pace if you have to, sit on the shoulder of the New Zealander Danyon Loader, and go for gold over the final length. Only when Loader outdid him on the final turn did Palmer recognise that it was a silver medal that beckoned.

What price do you put on an Olympic medal? Turner can answer "about £15,000 and rising". The head of PE at Yarborough School in Lincoln, he was allowed six months' unpaid leave by his head teacher to coach Palmer through to Atlanta. He was grateful for that.

"I said, 'This guy has a chance of a medal at the Olympics and I can't continue to teach and coach at this level'. The school was sympathetic, but I've had to finance things out of my savings. I've had some support from the ASA's Swim 2000 scheme, and the Lincoln club have been

supportive and enthusiastic, but we've just about run out of money. Thankfully the school is going to pay me in August and then it's back to work in September.

"Everything has to be sacrificed at this level, and I can't see how I can coach Paul any longer. For me it's decision time."

For Turner's wife Judith, a teacher at a school for the handicapped, and their two daughters, normal life has been severely disrupted. He accepts that swimming "occasionally bugs them". Coach and swimmer have spent three of the past six months out of England searching for decent long-course facilities.

Lincoln itself has what Palmer describes as "third-world facilities in a first-world nation, dodging up and down a 25m pool, between all the schoolkids". The local council has not always viewed such problems sympathetically, but Palmer cannot afford to leave home.

Now that he is an Olympic medallist, things might change. But his sacrifices in getting there are representative of many struggling British sportsmen and women. The pursuit of excellence can be a lonely one.

"Ian has coached me since I was four," Palmer said. "He has been a father-figure, I owe him everything." His appeal has been heard many times before: decent facilities, employment for more coaches, and a public recognition of the obstacles that have to be overcome. Palmer missed the 1994 world championships after falling off a garage roof and must have felt that Britain has been metaphorically throwing him off garage roofs ever since.

Palmer, at least, has been fortunate to achieve his dreams. "People had been telling me all day that I could be Britain's first medallist, and that had piled up the pressure. I had planned this race for four years but I hadn't planned on carrying so much expectation. When I saw the flag go up, it was a feeling that will never be topped in my life. It was sheer enjoyment, pride and a sense of relief. I don't think winning the Lottery could come close to it."

The Major plan, page 4



Rags to riches... Paul Palmer is jubilant after earning Britain's first medal of the Games. PHOTOGRAPH: VALERIA WITTEK



John Major: "What I would like to provide is a ladder of sporting opportunity for young people from the moment they get into

school, into club life after school and develop a proper link between school and club."



Paul Palmer: "We need backing from the Government if we are to win more medals. But they only think about swimming and

gymnastics every four years when the Olympics come round."

Why the British are not even at the ball game



Richard Williams

IT MUST be getting on for two years since my son taught me about the state of sport in British schools. He was eight years old and he'd just started coming home full of news about the game they'd had in the playground at lunchtime, and about how many goals he'd scored.

One day I asked him, out of curiosity, what kind of a ball they'd been playing with.

"Oh," he said, matter-of-factly, "we're not allowed to play with a ball."

"What do you play football with then?"

"A piece of wood bark. You know, from the climbing-frame pit."

Yes, I am aware that Pele learnt to play football with an orange on the beach. But he was Pele, and the beach was Copacabana. This is Chiswick. We can't give them much space, but we can afford a ball. It made me want to cry, if you must know.

I asked him why they'd been banned from using balls. He thought it was to save the school janitor from climbing up to get them out of the gutter. I didn't tell him I thought that was what janitors were for.

Instead I wrote a complaint to the head teacher. It worked, up to a point. She decided that half the school could play with a ball on Tuesdays and

Thursdays, and the other half on Wednesdays and Fridays. I suspect that the janitor's role had little to do with her original decision. Behind it, I imagine, was the effect of the pincer movement that has throttled the life out of sport in state schools in the last 20 years. On the one hand the impoverishment of their resources by the right, symbolised by the selling-off of playing fields. On the other, the left's insistence on abandoning the principle of competitive sport, compounded by the reluctance of underpaid teachers to maintain the tradition of out-of-hours games supervision.

John Major is making a lot of noise about sport this summer because the topic is on the national agenda in a big way

and he thinks it can win him some votes before the next election. For once, however, his timing is good. Five days into the Olympic Games, the British are still waiting for a hint of a gold medal. A mood of pessimism is spreading. If Gurnell is too old, and Edwards has a bad day, we may be down to Redgrave and Pinxten to give us consolation.

Such gloom is premature. Four years ago in Barcelona the situation at this stage looked very similar, with only Chris Boardman and his magic bike to cheer us up. Medals can and probably will come from unexpected quarters.

But the point is that virtually all our medals are unexpected. What we need is a system providing the basis for the reasonable expectation of success, and in this connection Major is right to place an emphasis on sports scholarships. He will double them, he says, from 200 to 400, as well as looking for private money to fund specialist sports colleges.

THE British tend to look with scorn on the way US colleges dole out scholarships to oarsmen and footballers, to baseball and basketball players who have nothing to recommend them but an athletic prowess that can be used to add glory to the institution.

Yet is that, even in itself, such a bad thing? And in the case of someone like Dawn Staley, the brilliant little point guard of the US women's basketball team, we can see that it provided the only route to further education for a smart and spunky inner-city child whose family background made college fees about as realistic a proposition as a round-trip to Mars.

Paula Radcliffe, by contrast, is a middle-class English girl, but she provides an illustration of how sport and the academic life can co-exist. Britain's 5,000 metres prospect won a scholarship to Loughborough University. This summer she graduated with a first-class degree in European Studies. On Sunday in the Olympic Stadium she will be among the medal contenders. As usual, this Government delivers proposals bedecked about with mentions of private sponsors to pay the bills. The £100 million of the headlines has no meaning beyond propaganda until something is actually done. The solution doesn't end with letting children use a proper ball for their football match at lunchtime, but that is where it starts.

How the best of the world leave Britain standing

John Duncan

SNUGGLED in the medallist table somewhere between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, the British Olympic effort so far looks well off the pace. That is being set by countries who have funded national sports programmes for many years.

France has a central sports institute on the outskirts of Paris with room for 700 athletes in residence with access to 1,500 coaches and support staff, all paid for by the government. A promising gymnast might join at 12, a team sports player somewhat later, but all would receive a broad education as well as hot-house sport training.

The institute, covering 22 sports, was set up 40 years ago and when it was planned the French took a long look across the Channel. "Though we admire the British ability, spirit and attitude to sport,

said Jean Claude Burel of the French Olympic Preparation Committee, "you never seem to commit enough money. Our programme has been a success and you'll find most of our medallists here have been through the system."

In China the ministry of sport funds nine institutes in Beijing alone, with every other major city also possessing one. A child will go to a sports institute for education and sports training from the age of seven for swimmers and gymnasts or 14 for basketball and soccer players.

Poland are one of the big surprises of the Games so far, but they ascribe their medal haul more to financial incentives than a national sports system. "One of the keys to our improvement," said Zbigniew Kundor, of the Polish Olympic Committee, "has been greater financial support from the government and the lottery."

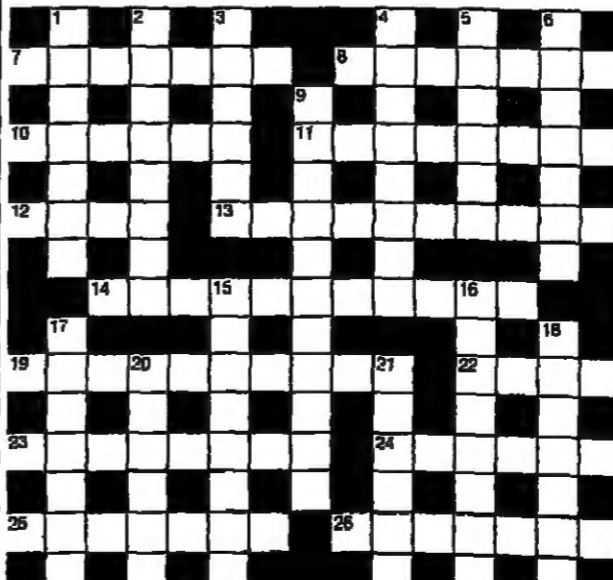
Less surprising has been

the success of the United States, who benefit from a college programme that identifies quality performers early and offers them free education with scholarships. The popularity and financial security of college sport attracts top coaches to work full-time with athletes. After college, athletes benefit from the legacy of the 1984 Olympics when a fund was set up from the profits of the Games. That has grown to \$189 million (\$122 million) and since 1993 \$115 million in grants have been handed out to governing bodies.

Britain took the idea for a central academy from the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra, born out of Australia's failure at the 1976 Olympics. But, critics say it has had little impact in some sports; in tennis, swimming and athletics, performances have slipped. But of Australia's 500 competitors here, 213 are products of the AIS.

Guardian Crossword No 20,714

Set by Rufus



Across

- 7 The baseball circuit (4,3)
- 8 He can't love, sadly, and is to be sexually unfaithful (5,2)
- 10 Tessa about record of Mary's husband (5)
- 11 You have to put up with the person (4,4)
- 12 Simple heart of Father Benedict (4)
- 13 Large thing made to fit a square corner (5,5)
- 14 Fear of being wrongly partitioned (11)
- 19 Wilde's version of "The Lady of the Lake" (10)
- 22 Pickpockets may be lucky (4)
- 23 Tolerate a girl in New York (8)
- 24 Find company in one churchman or another (6)

Down

- 1 Bogey-man (7)
- 2 Recall soldiers and arm (8)
- 3 Effusive oil-producer? (6)
- 4 It may control the oven cooking the roast (8)
- 5 Forces servant to be a comic character (6)
- 6 The loss-making accommodation for students (7)
- 9 Dramatic actress in great need of new parts (11)
- 15 Corresponding but never meeting (8)
- 16 Regulation I ignored in making guns (8)
- 17 Stray U.S. serviceman turns up in female attire (7)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,714

- 18 A rugby player, too fat to be fit (7)
- 20 Out-moded love is destined for failure (6)
- 21 Object I've put into the salad (6)

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Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.